

# Skinny jeans a poor fit for all

When your pants are gripping you like an anaconda, you need to go up a size



SARAH  
STEAD

As a person whose primary fashion choices in the morning are based on cleanliness, I recognize that I'm probably not the most qualified person to be doling out fashion advice. But I'm cultured enough to know that fads generally seem to follow a certain pattern. They catch on slowly, but gradually become so omnipresent you forget what it was even like before they existed.

As soon as people get used to the fad, there's always those who take it one step too far. My current fashion gripe is with so-called skinny jeans. These ridiculous vice-like pants have got to go.

For those who are completely unaware, skinny jeans are just a mutated, more stylized form of the same tapered-leg denim we used to make fun of our moms for wearing when we were in junior high and everyone knew flared leg pants were the shit.

When I bought my first pair, I considered this irony. I mean, if it weren't for the fact that the pants were low enough that even the most aggressive belt job could barely keep my ass crack from showing, I had

essentially just bought myself an expensive pair of "mom jeans."

Another fact that blows my mind about the popularity of these pants is that they combine two design details—tight legs and low waists which are generally unflattering to anyone in the population having a weight in the triple digits. But I'm not here to pick on skinny people—I'm here to pick on stupid people. Low-rise and narrow-leg jeans can look good, provided you wear pants the correct size. However, this is often not the case.

**They turned around and I blushed when I realized it was actually a dude in those wacky trousers. It was a more thorough anatomy lesson than any biology class I've ever attended.**

I was on Whyte with a friend recently, enjoying one of the last days of summer. While walking, he pointed out a girl waiting at a bus stop wearing the most obscenely tight pants I've ever seen.

They turned around and I blushed when I realized it was actually a dude in those wacky trousers. It was a more thorough anatomy lesson than any biology class I've ever attended.

"One really does hang a little

lower, hey?" I commented, and was promptly told that I was gross (which I am).

Skinny jeans are especially trendy because they're unisex—girls, boys, and those in between all seem to be obsessed with them. Now, I'm not so pretentious as to condemn a trend simply because it's popular, and truthfully, I actually like the style, but I can't help but wonder why some people choose to wear them so tightly.

On the whole, boys are by far the worst offenders. I can't count the number of times I've been walking on Whyte or around campus and seen guys who I thought were girls walking like penguins because the pants they were wearing didn't have the seam allowance to let them bend their knees properly. If you're still unsure of whether or not your pants are too tight, here are a few simple guidelines.

Are they hand-me-ups from your twelve-year-old sister? Are you abusing your elevator privileges on campus because taking the stairs results in inevitable rippage? Did you drop your \$200 Psych text and just leave it there because bending over seemed a more onerous task than just buying a new one? When you look at yourself in the mirror, can you count the freckles on your penis? Hey, guess what, your pants are too tight.

Fashion is fluid, and I realize that this won't last forever, but in the mean time, spare my virgin eyes and buy the next size up.



MIKE OTTO

**MOOSE KNUCKLE** Too-tight jeans show off more than you ever wanted to see.

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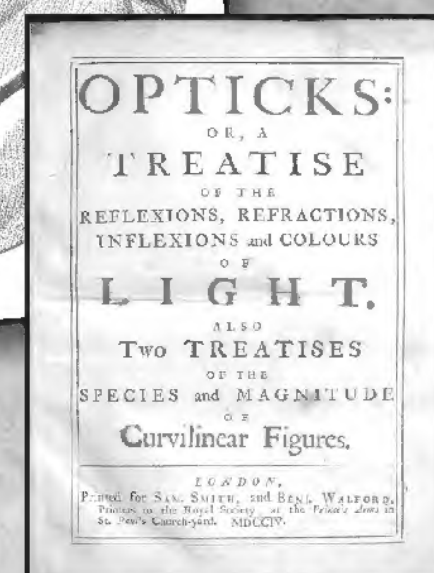
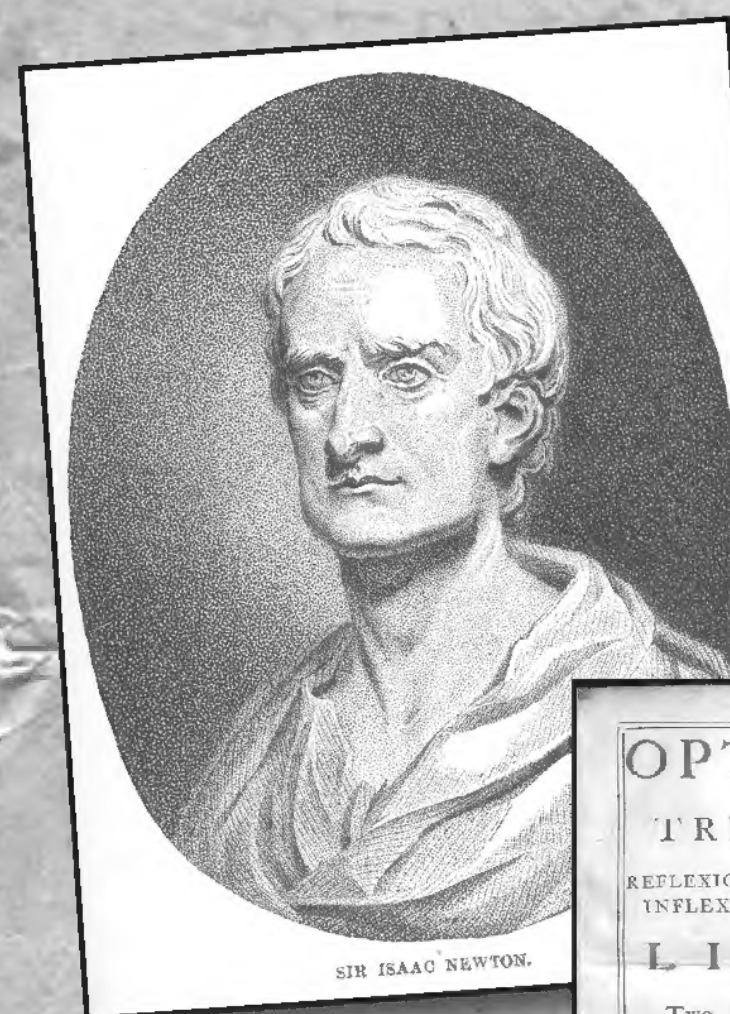
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# Scythe cuts into urban, rural stereotypes

Dammitdance Theatre's latest production combines theatre, dance, and live music to highlight their story about 'a clash of cultures'

## theatrepreview

### Scythe

Runs 20-30 September

Catalyst Theatre

Written and Directed

by Amber Borostik

Starring Jesse Gervais, Amber

Borostik, and Jason Carnew

Tickets available at Tix on the Square

KRISTINA DE GUZMAN  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

For some, the idea of Alberta being a rural province where canola grows and cows roam is one to embrace. For others, it's a stereotype to frown upon. Dammitdance Theatre's latest play, *Scythe*, explores these two mindsets and ultimately celebrates the tradition of farm life.

According to Amber Borotsik, who wrote, directed, and performs in the piece, *Scythe* follows the story of Sean (Jesse Gervais), who decides to leave his life in Vancouver—including his job and fiancé—behind, to manage a farm he and his brother have inherited after their father's passing.

To Gervais, the conflict his character experiences in moving from an urban setting to a rural one is one of the driving forces of the play.

"Sean feels a strong connection to the land even though he lives in the city," he explains. "I think that's something that makes us human. Everyone has that connection. There are two lives, but you could still fall in love with both of them."

The connection may be a little difficult to find for those who never grew up with farming. Borotsik, however, hasn't completely forgotten

those who quickly turn their heads away at the mention of anything rural-related.

"I've seen [that attitude] a hundred times," she exclaims. "That's been our journey because the prairie drama is a bit tired, a bit boring, and a bit of a cliché. That's why we try to take this old story about the farm that's been around in Alberta for a while and deconstruct it and do some crazy new things with it to shed new light."

These crazy new things include contemporary modern dance and music with eclectic influences. The play will have two acoustic musicians performing live using guitars, accordions, and harmonicas, as well as singing. One, Aaron Macri, is performing a live electronic soundscape, which is described by Borotsik as "electro-ambient." Borotsik points

out that the joining and clashing of urban, electro beats and folk accurately depicts *Scythe* itself, which is about "a clash of cultures."

Cultural differences are also reflected by the other characters in the play. Sean's brother Chris (Jason Carnew) wants to sell the farm and split the money. Chris' girlfriend Emily (Linda Turnbull) is also itching to get out of the small town she's in. Interestingly enough, these characters mirror the anti-rural sentiment towards the Prairies along with the sentiment some people have towards the cities they live in.

"This guy a couple of years ago—I think he was one of the guys from *Kids in the Hall*—came with us to a show called *Slightly Bigger Cities*," Borotsik recalls. "The premise is, wherever you are, you always want to move to

a slightly bigger city—even if you're in Montreal, you want to go to New York."

"And if you're in New York, you want to move to Tokyo or London," Gervais adds, with just a hint of exasperation.

Such dissatisfaction can be seen in the farming industry. With the current oil boom, it has left behind the troubles BSE started. But now, farms have become so grand and costly that small farmers are opting out of a risky business that relies heavily on Mother Nature, and instead moving to the concrete jungle of an urban centre. While *Scythe* portrays farming in a positive light, the negative isn't completely dimmed.

"It's a love-hate relationship," says Gervais about farm life. "It's something that sets you free and holds you back at the same time."

# The Wet Secrets a messy affair

## musicpreview

### The Wet Secrets

with Bend Sinister and the Clips

20 September at 8pm

Starlite Room

ALEXANDER WITT  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Whispers of The Wet Secrets are getting louder. Two and a half years after creating the band seven days before its debut concert, Trevor Anderson and Lyle Bell are back together with a new keyboard player, and they're firing back up their band—one Anderson once thought of as just a "flash in the pan."

So, Bell, from Whitey Houston and the Juno-nominated Shout Out Out Out Out, and Anderson, who also plays in the Vertical Struts, are back making what Anderson calls "folky, campy jungle-circus rock from space."

Back in February 2005, Anderson and Bell really wanted to play together, but they didn't have much time. As a challenge to themselves, and as a way of placating their busy schedules, they decided to go from

first rehearsal to stage debut in a week.

"We thought it would be a one-week experiment and that would be it, but it was more fun than we anticipated, and people liked it," Anderson explains.

**"They're simple, catchy, hopefully pop songs that will make people dance. We had to write them catchy so we could remember them in the first days—because we only had a week."**

TREVOR ANDERSON  
THE WET SECRETS

That people liked the songs shouldn't be a surprise. The Wet Secrets runs a strong beat, with clear vocals and big band instruments. But their sound is a far cry from your high school band: timpani, trombone, tuba and trumpet blend in

with guitar, synthesizer and drums to create an imposing and exciting sound that is designed to stick in people's minds with very little exposure.

"They're simple, catchy, hopefully pop songs that will make people dance. We had to write them catchy so we could remember them in the first days—because we only had a week," Anderson says.

"We write the gang vocal choruses, where people can shout along and pump their fists—hopefully it's celebratory."

With song titles like "Hep A Birthday," "Get Your Own Fucking Moustache, Asshole," and the questionable but indeniably catchy "I Teabagged Myself," it's obvious that the guys from the Wet Secrets don't blush easily. But Anderson might laugh if you do.

"We certainly have a lewd sense of humour; that comes out of our songs, but it's an innocent kind of lewd. We want to be titillating but not raunchy," he notes. "[In concert] people are usually drunk and thrilled by that."

They don't think a few naughty lyrics will turn listeners off of their



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music. Instead, the band tries to write lyrics that will draw a laugh out of their audience.

"It was only when we went to put [our songs] on the radio that we realised that everything but two of them had the F-bomb in them. We sure don't think ahead," Anderson admits.

Despite this seemingly nonchalant attitude toward their work, they're finally getting their act together. Their next album—to be written, created, and recorded in more than

a week—is currently being mastered and is expected for release before the end of the year. Anderson hopes that the Wet Secrets will have a long-term future in the industry—Of course, they'll be hard not to notice as they parade around on stage in signature red marching uniforms.

"We have always had a fantasy of being a rock & roll marching band," Anderson jokes. "I would love to get us marching around rural Alberta, unannounced, pulling generators and amps in a red wagon."



# Busy World has too many answers

## theatrereview

### The Busy World Is Hushed

Runs until 30 September  
Northern Lights Theatre  
Directed by Skye Brandon  
Starring Trevor Schmidt, Farron Timoteo and Holly Turner

BEN CARTER  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

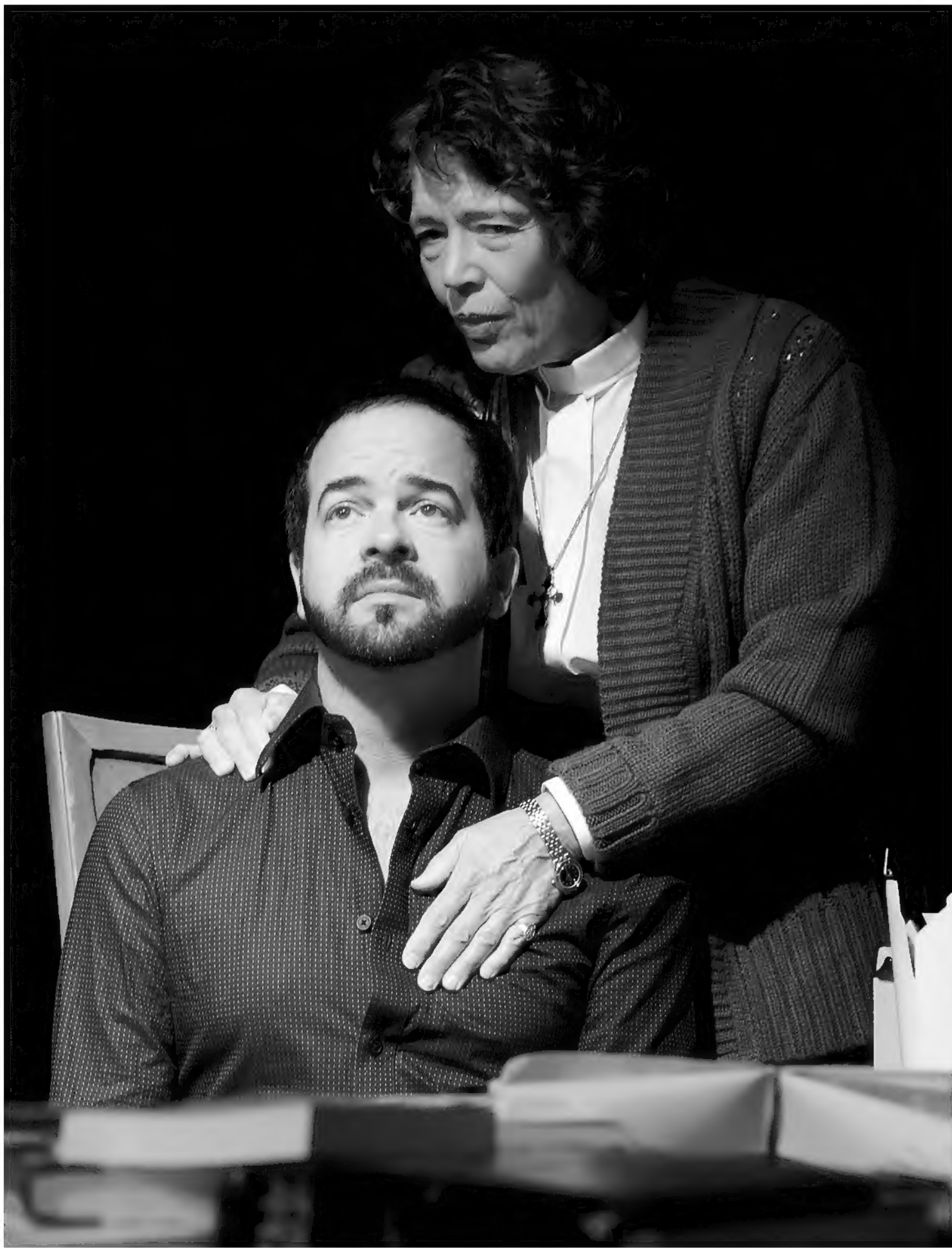
Northern Light Theatre's production of *The Busy World is Hushed* is a powerful piece about religion and love amongst family members, but despite some quality performances, the production is tainted with questionable decisions that leave the impression that neither the performers nor the audience is being given credit to fully appreciate the material at hand.

Hannah (Holly Turner) is an Episcopalian scholar studying an early gospel, who hires Brandt (Trevor Schmidt) to be her ghost-writer and assistant. Brandt is a gay agnostic, stressed due to a serious illness in his family, and as a result, he's very frightened. All of these qualities endear Brandt to Hannah, possibly because of his similarities to her combative, skeptical drifter of a son, Thomas (Farron Timoteo).

As their professional and personal relationship grows, Hannah sees an opportunity to bring Brandt and Thomas together for both Thomas' sake and her own. She's correct: as Brandt and Thomas become involved with each other, Thomas becomes more determined to understand his mother's life work and how it created a gulf between them.

Keith Bunin's play first appeared off-broadway in 2006, and makes its Canadian debut with this production. The script is sharp, personal, and rife with questions without simple answers.

The chemistry between the actors is authentic and emotional. Turner strikes a perfect balance between worried mother and determined scholar. The play makes a point of remaining unsympathetic to any one of these characters, but it's difficult not to become enamoured with



Hannah—she's smart and challenging as a scholar, but is teeming with the frustrating, lovable quirks that mothers have.

Thomas is never without a question or a quarrel for his mother, and she handles them all with grace and aplomb. Brandt is a trainwreck of a character, and Schmidt lets the audience into his agonizing, chaotic world at just the right moments. In the more emotional scenes Thomas and Brandt fall victim to the occasional bout of overacting, but overall, give quality performances.

Director Skye Brandon uses the appropriate pacing and tone, but unfortunately adds a number of emotional overtures that greatly detract from the play. Peppered throughout with emotional high points, Bunin's script carries no small amount of emotional anguish, and unfortunately, the addition of music at certain points only serves to nudge

these exchanges into the melodramatic realm. Not confined merely to musical selection, this problem also invades the acting at different points of *The Busy World is Hushed*. In a production that carries such weight, less is more, and the overwrought pauses and emphatic turns only serve as a distraction to the heady material on stage.

There is a lot to like about *The Busy World is Hushed*; Roy Jackson's lighting is perfect and the set design (Schmidt pulls double-duty) is warm and beautifully detailed, perfectly underscoring Hannah's role as both a scholar and a woman of God. However, it seems like Brandon lacks confidence in either the material or his actors, and bogs the play down with one unnecessary touch or another. With the space in which to ponder Bunin's probing questions already filled in, the production suffers.



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SHAUN MOTT



# Hunting Party captures one great performance, little else

## filmreview

### The Hunting Party

Now Playing

Written and Directed by Richard Shepard

Starring Richard Gere and Jesse Eisenberg

VICTOR VARGAS

Arts & Entertainment Staff

Some stories are so utterly spectacular and brilliant that they need to be told on the big screen—*The Hunting Party* should be one of them. But for some bizarre reason, director/writer Richard Shepard has managed to turn a fascinating, true tale of journalistic mishaps into a steaming pile of feces.

The movie is based on the story of journalist Scott Anderson and his intrepid band of nostalgic journalists that decide to go looking for the infamous Serbian war criminal Radovan "The Fox" Karadzic. Unexpectedly, their halfhearted attempts to find Karadzic result in people thinking they are a CIA hit squad, and set in motion a series of bizarre events that led to NATO and American security officials becoming involved.

But in Shepard's eyes, such a historically accurate story wasn't good enough for the silver screen, and he attempted to make it extreme. Instead of focusing *The Hunting Party* on its natural protagonist, Scott Anderson, Shepard created an entirely fictitious journalist named Simon Hunt (Richard Gere)—one of the greatest

war correspondents in the world who eventually cracks from the pressure and disappears, only to re-emerge at the beginning of the movie. But, since being an insane and discredited journalist isn't extreme enough, Hunt also had the mother of his unborn child killed by none other than Karadzic.

Despite this convoluted excuse for a character, Richard Gere manages to mold this into one of his better performances. In a fantastic display, he actually makes Hunt's search for The

Fox convincing and dealing with his own emotional confusion believable. However, Richard Shepard apparently would have none of that, and engineered the film to obfuscate Gere's excellent performance with a series of Hollywood clichés.

Despite being the film's biggest star, Shepard relegates Gere to cameo status for half of the movie. Instead of Gere, the movie is filled with inconsequential characters such as a whiny and idealistic journalist (Jesse Eisenberg); a veteran cameraman

(Terrence Howard) who's addicted to war; and a busty, bikini-clad girlfriend (Diane Kruger) vacationing in Greece.

Maybe Shepard was attempting to inject sex appeal and some humour into the movie, but he ended up creating a film that's really a double-feature: one starring Gere in a fascinating story of a broken man dealing with conflicting emotional and ethical forces, and another following a merry team of thrown-togethers and the wacky hijinks that occur.

This split-identity is the central problem of the film. Richard Shepard took a factual story that examined relevant issues such as the nature of journalism, and instead turned it into *Harold and Kumar go to Bosnia*. But even if Shepard was banking on an audience looking for a feel good comedy, he decided to alienate them by keeping several graphic and emotionally charged war scenes. As a result, Shepard took a combination of great acting and an excellent premise to create a movie no one could possibly enjoy.



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## albumreview

**Portico**  
*Progeny Blues*  
Copperspine Records

JILL GAMEZ  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

*Progeny Blues* is Portico's second musical offering, following 2005's *Shape to Form*. While *Progeny Blues* isn't as initially arresting as their previous release, it does get better after a few extra spins.

"Two Killers" is one of the catchier songs on the album, with jingling guitars and an interesting vocal cadence making it the album's standout track. It's a very accessible song about the

difficulty of speaking honestly in relationships, with lead vocalist Lyn Heineman sounding like a huskier-than-normal girl group. "High Walls" is equally engaging, with stronger and more assertive vocals, cheerier guitar lines, and percussion-driven rhythms. "The New Wild" even takes Portico's sound in a completely different direction, showcasing a down-tempo, Kathleen Edwards-style

country sweetness.

The one weakness of *Progeny Blues* is that the majority of songs don't take advantage of the varied instrumentation Portico is capable of. "Sincerely" is an exception, having a rich, orchestral sound—including a tuba and a baritone—which compensates for its overly earnest payback-themed lyrics.

"All Your Daughters" is the most lyrically mature track, with Heineman singing convincingly about familial discord and disappointment. While it starts off slow and has a long instrumental break, the sound swells majestically at the end with a choir full of airy, girlish voices.

Overall, *Progeny Blues* is a strong sophomore effort, with varied instrumentation and quality vocals—all it lacks is the immediate grip of *Shape to Form*.



## albumreview

**Hunter Valentine**  
*The Impatient Romantic*  
High Romance Music

JEFFREY KLASSEN  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Hailing from Toronto, Hunter Valentine dares you to fall in love with them. Their MySpace page states that the band have a James Dean-esque kind of power that makes people fall in love with you, but where you're too busy being beautiful and oblivious to care. However, on their debut album *The Impatient Romantic*, Dean's sexy pull isn't as self-evident as the band would like it to be.

Certainly, these three girls are quite beautiful—the cd cover shows them all dressed in black, bangs all swept fashionably to the same side. Hunter Valentine is a queer band

with a sizable following in Toronto, and people will surely compare them to Tegan and Sara. But these bands are fundamentally different, and Hunter Valentine provides a fuller rock sound than Tegan and Sara through their use of keyboards and bass. Also adding to the rich sound palette is Kiyomi McCloskey's technically accomplished voice—unlike Tegan and Sara, she can sing in tune and with soul.

Some of the songs tend to drift into pop-punk mediocrity, and the album generally lacks bursts of creative energy and originality that one expects when listening to a new band.

The songs mostly stick to the same tempo with the same standard and predictable chord changes.

The lyrics are of a girl-loves-girl variety, but they don't seem to delve very far past surface-level lyrics. When compared to a gay icon like Rufus Wainwright, Hunter Valentine have nothing new or revealing to say about homosexual love—or any kind of love for that matter. The title of the album suggests that perhaps the band is at least partially aware of its own flaw—these girls just seem too immature to be writing about love and relationships.

One can't forget how new this act is, however. With only this first album under their belt, Hunter Valentine has plenty of places to grow musically. If these girls had a chance to mature both musically and artistically, they could be a formidable force. *The Impatient Romantic* shows that they have the raw talent to back themselves up—now they just need the refined substance.



## albumreview

**Manchester Orchestra**  
*I'm Like a Virgin Losing a Child*  
Favourite Gentlemen

JORDAN ABEL  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

You'd think that if a band was called the Manchester Orchestra, they would either be from Manchester, or, at the very least be an orchestra. But the Manchester Orchestra is neither. Despite their obvious shortcomings, however, their debut album, *I'm Like a Virgin Losing a Child*, showcases the young band's energetic lust for falsetto vocals and stinging guitar tones.

The Manchester Orchestra—whose

average age is a tender 19—have only been around for about a year and a half, but have already toured with such greats as The Flaming Lips, Wilco, and Built to Spill.

Their debut, while not perfect, does contain many diverse and often catchy songs. The opening track, "Wolves at Night," sets the limelight on lead man Andy Hull's full vocal range and maturity, a feat accentuated by the fact

that he's barely out of high school. Thankfully, the rest of the album flows smoothly off of the resonance that "Wolves" creates.

Unfortunately, the album starts to lose momentum during songs like "I Can Feel Your Pain," and "I Can Barely Breathe." If the intent of these songs is to be emotional and deep, they have failed—miserably; they sound melodramatic and self-indulgent. But back on the bright side, the MO's debut does have many tracks their achieve their intended purpose, such as "Colly Strings," the perfect six-minute cathartic closer.

The Manchester Orchestra has a few problems, but *I'm Like a Virgin Losing a Child* is engaging enough to deserve at least a MySpace hit. Not bad for a band from Manchester—by way of Atlanta, Georgia, that is.



## albumreview

**The Riff Randells**  
*Doublecross*  
Dirtnap Records

SARAH SCOTT  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Regardless of hether or not you've heard of them, the Riff Randells are not a fresh new band; in fact, the girls have been performing together since they debuted in Vancouver back in 1999. They've toured Canada, the United States, and Japan, and released multiple singles across the globe. However, *Doublecross* marks their first full-length album, and that gives reason for the

music scene to sit up and take notice.

The album is filled with catchy, upbeat tunes—the band has clearly honed their pop-punk sound over the past eight years. Though a full, eleven-track album—with ten original Riff Randell tracks and a cover of Little Girls' "Bandana"—*Doublecross* clocks in at just under twenty-five minutes, with no songs stretching past the

three minute mark. But despite this, the album is fun, enjoyable, and even a little bubbly at times.

Teenybopper songs like "Traitor of the Heart" and "The Only One" may seem immature to some, but you can tell the Riff Randells were singing with smiles on their faces and basking in every second of each song. Even the whiny "When You Go" and the jarring title track don't get annoying, providing some contrast to the rest of the sickly sweet album.

The Riff Randells may be flying under the radar for now—and have been, for almost a decade—but that will inevitably change once *Doublecross* starts circulating to a large audience. Do yourself a favour and grab it early, so you can say you were there before the fame, fortunes, and drugs tore them apart.



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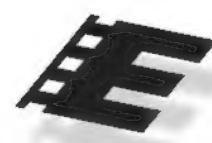
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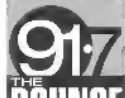
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# Pandas, turf gang up against UBC field hockey

Unfamiliar field conditions and an energetic Alberta team kept the defending national champions to a weekend split at Foote Field

ROBIN COLLUM  
Sports Editor

In most sports, having the home field advantage manifests itself as a mental edge stemming from a friendly crowd, a good night's sleep, and familiar locker rooms. In the case of the Pandas field hockey team this weekend, however, it was the field itself that made a difference, discomfiting their opponent and helping them earn a weekend split against a powerhouse from UBC.

The Alberta took on the defending national champion Thunderbirds at Foote Field on the weekend, winning 2-1 on Saturday but dropping Sunday's game 1-0.

Unlike the other teams in their conference, the Pandas play on a converted football field rather than a designated field hockey surface, and the difference between the two types of artificial turf can have a huge effect on the game.

T-Birds head coach Hash Kanjee was blunt in his assessment of the field conditions, and admitted that the unfamiliar surface affected his team's play.

"It takes away the skill element of the game, for both sides," he said. "It's slower, and the ball bounces all over the place."

"Saturday, one of the things that was frustrating for me was that this field doesn't lend itself to some of the skills we practice at home, and it's slower, so we didn't get to do some of the things that we do on a regular basis. I think we're going to have to practice on it a

few times before we meet the Pandas again."

Though Kanjee wasn't too happy about how the weekend turned out, the Pandas were pleased they could manage a win on Saturday, even if Sunday's result was less satisfactory. The team is fairly young—nearly half of this year's players are in their first year—while the T-Birds are returning with all but a handful of their championship-winning side.

"I told someone at the beginning of the weekend: if we could get split against UBC, we would be happy," Alberta head coach Carla Duncan said. "I think when we look back at this tomorrow, having a split against the top team in the country—and by far, they will be the top team in the country again—we're happy. We're ecstatic."

For all Duncan's fervor, she recognized the holes in her team's performances, especially during Sunday's loss.

"[Saturday] we were much sharper. We were technically much better and tactically a little more disciplined. We were patient, and we took advantage of our opportunities when we got them," Duncan said. "[Sunday], we went a little bit individual. We're really a passing team, but we started to carry the ball, and we turned the ball over in possession."

On Saturday, the Pandas came back from a 1-0 deficit in the first half, potting two in the UBC net in the second—the first goal from forward Jennifer Zwicker, and the second off a short corner by defender Stephanie Madsen.



KATEWADE

**WHAT, NO SKATES?** Alberta midfielder Erin Mason (left) does her best to keep the ball away from UBC on Sunday.

On Sunday, however, they couldn't pull off the same sort of energy after the break, and weren't able to regroup after Thunderbird Elisa Milosevich's goal in the 49th minute.

"Today they just put us under more pressure," Duncan said after Sunday's game. "With their constant pressure, we struggled to get the ball out of the backfield. They have some very experienced players and some very skilled players; we have to give credit where credit's due."

Kanjee said he felt that the win was

a matter of wearing Alberta down in the second half rather than a surge from his side.

"I think it's more a question of their falling apart, just like we did on Saturday," he said. "I thought, after the goal that Alberta got, that we went really quiet, and they just gained momentum; whereas, today we sort of stepped up, and Alberta got quiet."

In addition to Zwicker and Madsen, Alberta leaned on fourth-year midfielder Erin Mason, who was a second-team All-Canadian last year.

"We relied heavily on Erin, and we can't afford to do that," Duncan said. "[She's] a fantastic player, but she can't do it all. As a whole, we need to step up and be a little bit better."

Kanjee praised Mason too, and said that her presence on the field was a definite source of concern for his team.

"We were looking out for Erin," he said. "She's a very, very tough little hockey player, and she will give any team, either in Canada West or CIS, a lot of trouble. She's very talented."



FILE PHOTO: ZHENDONG LI

**LEARNING TO WALK** Rookie defensive back Rhys Coppens, who grew up watching the Bears play football, is now trying to help them make the playoffs.

## Pressure makes diamonds for new Bear

MARC AFFELD  
Sports Writer

For the average first-year student coming straight out of high school, the pressure of university classes, homework, and studying can be incredibly daunting. Rookie defensive back Rhys Coppens, however, is not your average first-year—he also has the uncertain future of this year's Golden Bears football team to worry about.

The pressure stems from the fact that after the Bears' disappointing playoff miss last year, considerable attention is being directed towards the team's defence this season, which boasts four new starters, including Coppens. He doesn't seem overly worried about being under the microscope, though.

"It's kind of nice having the attention on us," he says. "Especially throughout the week and before a game, most of the view is on the secondary just because we're so young."

Bears head coach Jerry Friesen is pleased with the way Coppens has been handling everything. He said that Coppens has a positive attitude towards the attention the whole team—and the defense in particular—are getting.

"[He's] competitive, and competitive players enjoy the challenges that they have in front of them," he said.

"He's rising to the challenges."

That competitive spirit has already led Coppens, a recent graduate of St Francis Xavier high school, to considerable success on the field. He spent part of his summer helping Team Alberta win a gold medal in the 2007 Football Canada Cup in Sherbrooke, Quebec, where he was named Defensive Player of the Tournament.

Coppens has already begun to prove himself as an important addition to the Bears' secondary. In his first start of the season, he earned himself a game-high 13 tackles during a 24-22 loss to the University of Regina Rams. Friesen credits Coppens' success on the football field primarily to his athleticism.

"He's a very good athlete all-around," says the Alberta bench boss.

Coppens is also hoping to use his athleticism this season to help the Bears out on special teams. In the first three games of the season, he has returned six kick-offs for an average of 24.7 yards per carry.

An Edmonton native, Coppens grew up watching U of A football and is comfortable knowing that he has friends and family in the seats at home games.

"I like the attention," he says. "It's pretty comforting having people in the stands no matter what, cheering for you."

So far, it seems that the Golden Bears coaching staff has been successful in transitioning him from a high-school athlete into a university football player.

"They're really good at explaining what to do," Coppens says. "As a new guy coming in, [Friesen] has been really helpful."

When it comes to fellow players, Coppens names veteran defensive back Scott Stevenson, who is in his last year of CIS eligibility, as a huge influence on the field.

"[Stevenson] is really good at helping you out. He knows the game really well," he says. "If I have any questions, I go to him."

Encouragement from fellow teammates extends off the field to other aspects of Coppens' first-year university student life as well, he says.

"I'm not necessarily in a lot of their classes, but they give you pointers. If they catch you hanging around SUB too much, they'll tell you to go study."

With the outcome of this season looking as cloudy as ever, the Bears can at least feel confident in the fact that Coppens has the potential to be an important team leader, even in the near future.

"As he develops into a more mature football player, he'll become a leader," Friesen says. "His skill level out on the field is of leadership value to us right now."





GEOFF MACINTOSH, THE GAUNTLET

**DON'T JUST STAND THERE** Alberta midfielder Junior Castrillon-Rendon was a key to the Bears' win over Calgary.

# Bears need most senior Junior to lead

NICK FROST  
Sports Staff

When the reality set in that only a handful of last year's championship roster would be returning for the 2007/08 campaign, the U of A men's soccer coaching staff had to have been a little worried about what the coming season held for them. Luckily, however, at least part of that fear must have been alleviated by the fact that Canada West Player of the Year Junior Castrillon-Rendon wouldn't be one of those departing.

With a wealth of experience at the college and international levels—including two years spent abroad playing soccer in Germany, and a recent appearance for Team Canada at the 2007 Universiade Games in Bangkok—the highly skilled midfielder will be heavily relied upon this season. The young, inexperienced team will especially need him for his skills and knowledge as the try to improve on their 2–2 record.

"Junior is probably one of the most technically proficient players in Canada West," Bears head coach Len Vickery says. "He helped the team tremendously in the absence of another great soccer player last year, Mark Korthuis—who struggled for the most part during the season with a groin problem—and a lot is expected of him in terms of helping a fairly new squad that replaced, for one reason or another, twelve players."

After his last season, the coaching staff has high expectations of Castrillon-Rendon. His seven goals in 2006 put him among the top goal-scorers in the country; offensive contribution will have to be a staple of his gameplay.

"We need all his strengths to come

**"Junior is probably one of the most technically proficient players in Canada West."**

LEN VICKERY  
BEARS SOCCER HEAD COACH

to the forefront, and that necessitates us getting him the ball in areas where he can do a little bit of damage offensively," Vickery explained. "He'll play the more attacking role in the midfield, hopefully with a view to get in forward and help them with the goals."

"We've got basically an inexperienced group in those other forward positions. We need his influence high in the midfield—not the least of which is his passing ability—and also his leadership."

While the pressure to be a leader and to contribute may seem enormous for the third-year athlete, he welcomes the challenge and feels

that it adds a certain new dimension to his role as a player.

"There is pressure, and it's not necessarily bad pressure, but you do feel responsible for the younger guys because you want them to get up to speed and do it as quickly as possible," Castrillon-Rendon admits.

"So the main thing is that you really want them to understand what it takes to play at this level. You do whatever you can to help them out, and hopefully they pick it up quick."

Castrillon-Rendon believes that the best way he can help the new guys get accustomed to the system, the team, and the pace of the game is by letting his play do the talking. And while the typically easy-going individual jokes that he can become pretty animated when either he or the team not performing up to standard, he hopes that the positives that he brings to the team will ultimately be what rubs off on the young players around him.

"I just do what I do—you know, I try and lead by example as much as possible, and hopefully the other guys can take from that lead," he explained. "I try to explain to them as much as I can when things are going wrong."

"I tend to scream every once in a while, but most of the time you hope that the guys can pick up on what you do as a player, and then just go from there. That's usually, in my opinion, the best way to do things."

lost 24–23. The Bears points came from a Duncan Hankinson touchdown, four field goals from Hugh O'Neill—the longest of which was 43 yards—and two safeties.

## Soccer boys maul 'Horns, Dinos ...

The soccer Bears were on the road this weekend, travelling down to southern Alberta for one match each against the Lethbridge Pronghorns and the Calgary Dinos.

Alberta (2–2) swept the weekend, earning a 4–3 victory against the 'Horns (1–2–1) on Saturday and a 2–1 win over Calgary (0–2) on Sunday. The Bears got three goals out of Manav Deol and one

from Brett Colvin against Lethbridge, while the Dinos were beaten by goals from Junior Castrillon-Rendon and John Konye.

## ... But the Pandas were gored

The soccer women followed the same route as the men this weekend, but weren't able to procure as favourable an outcome. The Pandas are now 1–3 for the season so far after losing to both Lethbridge (1–1–2) and Calgary (2–0).

Saturday saw them go down 3–1, with their lone goal coming from Lisa Jennings. On Sunday they were shut out altogether as the Dinos put up a 1–0 victory.

# SPORTS SHORTS

by Robin Collum

## Footballers blow 18-point lead

The Bears were able to score some first-quarter points for the first time this season on Saturday, but it didn't help them pull out a win against the UBC Thunderbirds (2–1) in Vancouver.

Leading 18–0 at the half and 23–10 at the end of three, the Bears (0–3) let allowed two T-Birds touchdowns and

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# THE MAIDS

  
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# Loose lips sell new shirts for lucky NHL marketers

It was an accident, but Reebok and EA Sports did the league a favour by leaking the new jersey designs and got people talking



NICK FROST

Sports  
Commentary

**S**poiler alert: it's damn near impossible to keep anything secret from the public these days.

But, hey, you already knew that—you probably found it out on an online message board dedicated to the art of keeping secrets long before I had it printed at the beginning of this article.

Such is the nature of the beast in the age of the Interwebs, where the most-anticipated new albums are peer-to-peer-distributed months before their release; shocking endings to television programs are revealed long before the shock can even apply itself, let alone set in; and, as several NHL clubs found out this past Thursday, new jersey designs are leaked to the public due to the slightest fuck-up by the company manufacturing them, Reebok.

However, unlike the other examples—which result in torrent after torrent of free albums and a drop-off in viewership, respectively, in turn leading to some form of profit loss—the NHL can only stand to benefit from this little uproar.

Over the past several months, close to two thirds of the NHL's franchises have successfully revealed their new jerseys in accordance with the release dates they had each set for themselves. While there were rumors and crude—nay, God-awful—mock-ups circulating around as to what each jersey would look like, those that came out prior to last Thursday seemed to do so without incident, and even got the appropriate press conferences to finally show them to fans longing for all that overpriced, form-fitted goodness.

However, the jerseys that had yet to be seen by anyone other than their makers were preceded last Tuesday by the release of EA Sports' *NHL 08*. In order to keep the game current and not disappoint the legions of hockey fans needing their yearly virtual-reality fix, EA implemented a code system solely into the PS3, XBOX 360, and Wii versions of the game—a smart

move, considering someone would've likely hacked the files of a PC version within an hour of release—that would unlock each RBK Edge jersey for all 30 teams.

This code was supposed to be released at the beginning of the NHL season, after all of the new outfits had been seen. Instead, two days after the release of the game—with many of the uniforms still days away from being introduced—RBK accidentally put the code on their website for a brief moment—which, as we all know, is just long enough for the thousands sitting at their computers all day waiting for the Internet to act up to spot the code and go posting it everywhere.

While I'm certain that a few team presidents and a number of guys in RBK's research and development are probably a little irked right now at the fact that their surprise party was gatecrashed by a gang of internet delinquents, it's best to look at this from a positive standpoint.

With the number of people clamouring over the summer to find out whether the Original Six teams would go against the grain and adopt vertical stripes, whether the Canucks sweater would actually have a wordmark on it that stuck out like a sore thumb, or whatever else they desired to know, the new RBK Edge jerseys—regardless of whether they were exposed a little bit early or not—are fresh in the minds of the hockey fan and are being heavily discussed in hockey circles. I may not be much with marketing, but I can only imagine that this is what the NHL wanted exactly.

They took a product idea that a lot of people were, and still are, skeptical about, and through smoke, mirrors, and a hell of a lot of teaser pictures, made the topic of the new jerseys the hot-button conversation of the moment—even giving the usual summer discussion-fest that is the unrestricted free-agency period a run for its money. And while it will probably take a few years for traditionalists like myself to get used to the close fits, half-stripes, vertical piping, and sheer ugliness of some of the designs—like the New York Islanders' new shirts, for instance—I can still give the NHL and Reebok marketing departments the rare thumbs-up for getting people enthusiastic over the prospects of a new jersey.

Now if only they could make them a little more affordable.



GEOFF MACINTOSH, THE GAUNTLET

**POP AND LOCK IT** Pandas midfielder Lyndsay Stewart fights for the ball with one of the University of Calgary Dinos during Sunday's away game. The Pandas lost the closely-fought game 1-0.

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# Wanted: the perfect boss

It's hard to define what makes a great coach, but we at Gateway sports know it when we see it—and what we see is ballsy suits and crazy plays



SPORTS  
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Commentary

The taunts you heard in the schoolyard are true: statistics are for squares. It takes more than just a fancy Hall of Fame induction or a shiny undefeated streak to impress the truly discerning sports fan. As the squeaky kid from *Captain Planet* would say, it takes heart to truly be a champion, and that goes double for coaches—though sometimes “heart” means “yelling” and “plaid.”

In recognition of this fact, the *Gateway's* finest coaching analysts have put their heads together to make an entirely subjective list of the best coaches—any sport, any time.

### Trevor Phillips

My pick can be summed up in just three words: Donald S Cherry. The loveable loudmouth commentator from CBC's *Hockey Night in Canada* is, without a doubt, the greatest bench boss in the history of sports. Statistically speaking, Grapes isn't the top hockey skipper of all time—that's obviously Scotty Bowman—but what Cherry lacked in NHL games coached he has made up for with a keen fashion sense that comes equipped with one fine pair of ass-kicking boots.

Cherry took over the Rochester Americans in '71, and two years later he won AHL Coach of the Year and was promoted to the two-time defending Stanley Cup Champion Boston Bruins. There, he won 231 games in five years, two conference championships, and the Jack Adams Award in 1976. After he and Bruins GM Harry Sinden exchanged knuckle sandwiches over a coaching blunder in '79, he was fired. But, for the record, it was a too-many-men-on-the-ice penalty, and nobody was going to beat the Habs in the '70s anyway because that jerk Bowman was coaching them.

Still, Cherry went on to revive hockey in Colorado, albeit with a fight-first, play-hockey-later strategy, before retiring from the game and filling our ears with insightful knowledge and our eyes with beautiful suits every Saturday night on his Coach's Corner segment.

Don't forget, Cherry accomplished all of this while only having playing one shift in the NHL and never finishing junior high—that alone should be reason enough to crown him as the best coach. Then again, Bowman never played in the NHL either, that wuss.

### Nick Frost

As a fan of hockey, it would be absolutely criminal for me not to include a guy like Roger Neilson on a list of the greatest coaches of all time, whatever the criteria. He was one of a only a handful of coaches to have coached 1000 games at the NHL level, had 460 regular season wins, two President's Trophy-winning seasons—one with the Rangers in 1992 and the other with the Senators in 2002—and was even named to the Order of Canada. It's pretty easy to see, then, that Neilson had an astounding impact not just as a coach, but as an individual as well.

Neilson's greatest contribution, without question, was his method of using game footage to analyze the strategies of other teams and determine the areas in which is own team needed to work harder—a way of coaching that has since been adopted been most, if not all, coaches in all levels of the sport.

His innovative thinking and ability to read loopholes in the NHL's rule-book gave him a unique approach to the game, one that any coach in the current era would be hard-pressed to match. Hell, any guy that would send out a defenceman to play goal on a penalty shot—which would allow the defenseman to come out of his net and play the shooter directly, and lead the NHL to change the rule to permit only goalies to defend on penalty shots—is someone who's clearly thinking on his feet.

To this day, I'll never forget watching the NHL Entry Draft in 2003, when Gary Bettman came to the podium in Nashville between picks to announce Neilson's sad passing, and the collective lump in every hockey fan's throat in knowing that we had lost one of the best to ever stand behind the bench.

### Marc Affeld

It took almost three years of petitioning the NFL, but this season, San Francisco 49ers head coach Mike Nolan was finally allowed to dress the way he wanted to, and was the first NFL coach in thirteen years to don a suit and tie on the sidelines.

Thanks almost entirely to Nolan, a special deal was negotiated before the start of this season between the league and Reebok—which owns exclusive rights to providing all of the clothes worn by NFL coaches—to create a Reebok-brand suit for Nolan to wear.

You see, while coaches in the NHL and NBA have pretty much always been allowed to wear suits, professional football coaches have for the past decade been forced to dress like the angry gym teachers that exist only in our darkest nightmares.

The reason Nolan gives for wanting to kick it old-school is out of respect for his ex-coach father and all of the suit-wearing football coaches of years past—evidence that the man has class to spare.

I don't care if current New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick has three Super bowl rings; I would personally much rather take orders from a man who is one fedora away from looking like Tom Landry than a man who is one missing tooth away from looking like he pans for gold in a tent along the North Saskatchewan River.

Of course, there are many football fans who might point out how insignificant being named *Esquire's* eleventh-best-dressed man in the world is compared to one's performance on the sidelines, but the fact remains that Nolan is a beacon of hope for old-style gridiron fans who are sick of having to hear about dog fighting, strip-club shootings, human growth hormones, and secret films of the opposing teams' defensive signals.

### Ben Carter

Football is, essentially, a game of common sense. If you've prepared well enough during the week and you have quality players who know what they're doing, a football game basically comes down to two things: who can make the fewest mistakes,

and which coaching staff can make the adjustments necessary throughout the course of a game to win. Fans looking to learn a lesson in quality football coaching should have their eyes focused firmly on the sidelines at Commonwealth Stadium, as Danny Maciocia is providing lessons on what not to do, by getting thoroughly out-coached every week of the season.

When he first took over the team in 2005, Maciocia inherited a team rich in talent and experience. The Eskos won the Grey Cup later that year, where Maciocia distinguished himself by running out onto the field before the game was quite over.

Since then, the team has floundered, due in large part to one boneheaded coaching or personnel decision after another. The infamous last-play loss to Winnipeg in 2006 (in which the Eskos decided that double coverage wasn't necessary on Milt Stegall—only the greatest receiver in CFL history), the end of 34 consecutive playoff seasons, and a number of incidents that suggest the Eskimos have become a team without a lot of class (AJ Gass, Rahim Abdullah) have all occurred under Maciocia's watch.

The Eskimos, once the envy of every team in the league, have become mired in mediocrity, with a long way to go to catch up with the rest of the CFL.

It remains to be seen whether or not Maciocia will go down in history with other CFL coaching disasters such as Jeff Reinbold, Matt Dunigan, or Kay Stephenson. But as it stands, he remains the favourite coach of this non-Eskimos fan, and I will look forward to seeing his confused stare on CFL sidelines weekly for as long as I can.

### Robin Collum

Records and trophies are impressive, and Jacques Demers has picked up his fair share of these. The former NHL coach and current French-language TV announcer coached in Montreal, Quebec City, St Louis, Detroit, and Tampa Bay. He won two Jack Adams awards for NHL Coach of the Year, in 1987 and 1988—the only person to have won in consecutive years—and led the Habs to their most recent Stanley Cup in 1993.

But it's not his accomplishments in the arena that have most earned my respect; it's what he did two years ago: he publicly admitted that he was functionally illiterate. Demers had kept it a secret throughout his entire career, and even many of his closest friends were shocked at the revelation. He was practiced at hiding his status: he knew a few common phrases, such as those he would write for autograph-seekers; developed an excellent memory; and would often ask for help with English text, claiming that he wasn't bilingual enough to handle it—among other tricks.

Everybody has a secret that they dread exposing to the world, and this was Demers'. He explained that he was too afraid to admit his illiteracy earlier, for fear he'd be ostracised. He figured that the NHL would never have given him a chance; he even kept his illiteracy from his wife.

It was an incredibly brave move to come forward with his story, and drew attention to a problem that gets very little attention in North America.

Good coaches lead by example, and in my books this makes Jacques Demers one of the best.

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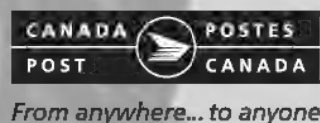
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Cinch your belt tight, tuck in the cuffs, and stuff two ferrets down your trousers: you're now a participant in the noble—and illegal—sport of ferret-legging. The ordeal is then timed, and neither the wearer nor the participants are allowed to be drugged. Underwear is also forbidden.

Gateway sports meetings, which happen every Tuesday at 5:30 in 3-04 SUB, have been designated a ferret-free zone

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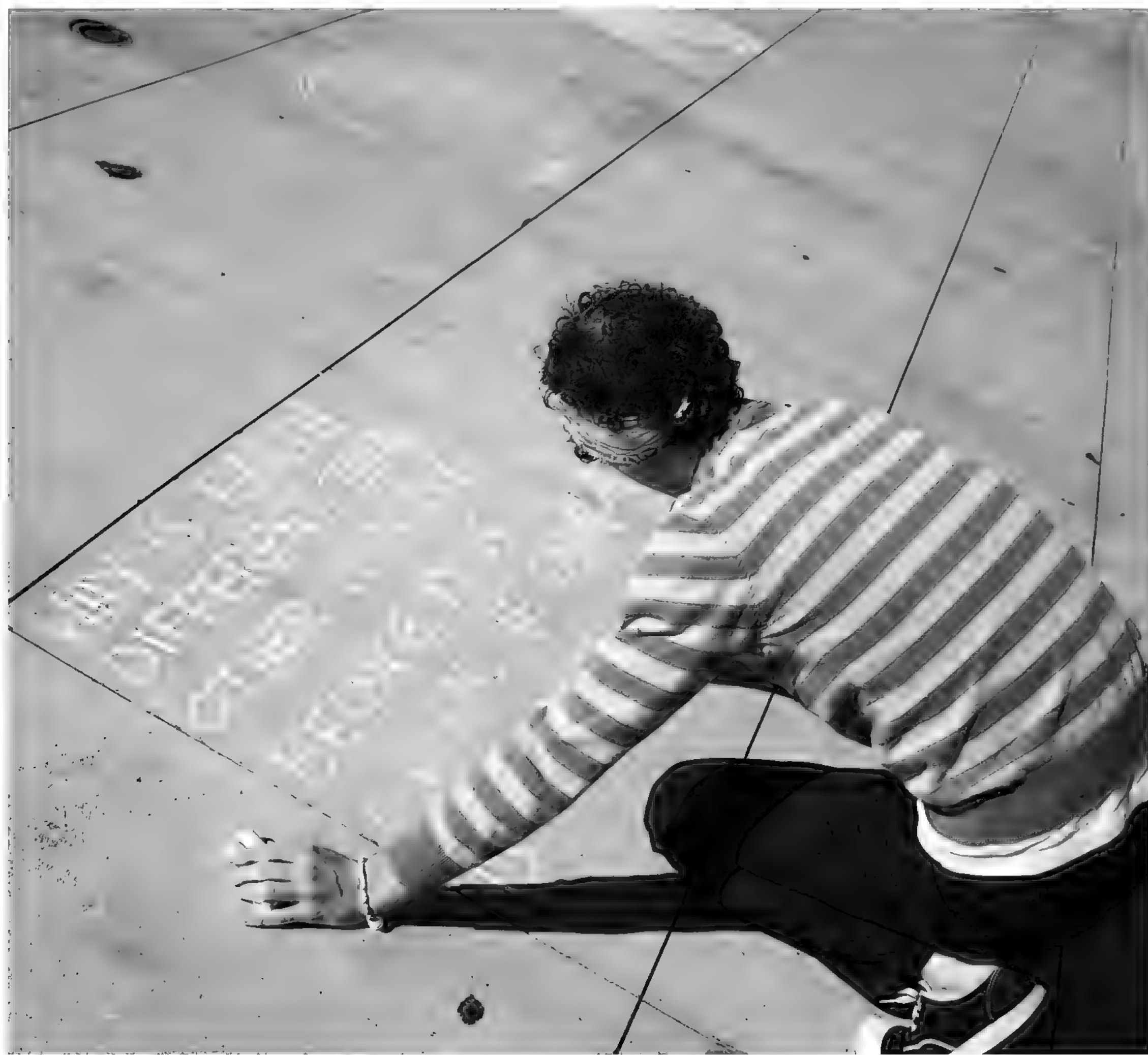
## GATEWAY SPORTS

Wearing white pants to better show the blood since 1910



# THE GATEWAY

volume XCVIII number 5 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ tuesday, 18 september, 2007



KATE WADE

**CHALK ONE UP FOR THE MOB** The Edmonton Flash Mobber Society descended on Sir Winston Churchill Square on 14 September to mark up the expansive concrete space to raise awareness of pressing environmental issues in Alberta.

## PIA launches election awareness campaign

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

Every three years, on the third Monday in October, all cities in Alberta go to the polls. This year, Public Interest Alberta (PIA) wants that electoral tradition to be marked by an increased turnout among the younger demographic.

Last Thursday, the three-year-old advocacy organization launched Take Back Your City, its provincial campaign aimed at engaging young people in the municipal and school board elections.

NAIT Student Association Vice-President (Academic) and PIA board member Lisa Munro explained at the campaign launch that all candidates across the province will be sent an extensive survey prompting them to list what they consider to be the most important issues for municipalities. These surveys will in turn be compared to the ones given out to young people in specific regions so that voters can decide how the responses correspond.

"We're not *telling* anyone [anything]; we're just giving them the tools to analyze whether or not the candidates are responding to their critical issues," PIA executive director

Bill Moore-Kilgannon said. Over the next several weeks, PIA will be holding similar campaign events around the province leading up to the opening of the polls on 15 October.

According to Moore-Kilgannon, the idea of holding an electoral campaign aimed at engaging youth stems from a democracy task force held last March that involved eight different forums across Alberta.

"One of the key things that we heard [coming out of those forums] was that we need to engage young people to recognize how their daily life is impacted by politics and how, through their participation in democracy, they could have an influence as to what type of society they live in," he said.

However, University of Alberta Students' Union President Michael Janz noted that a large part of the need to connect specifically with student voters has to do with the simple fact that they are often displaced from their home regions. He stated that approximately 40 per cent of students at the U of A are not originally from Edmonton, and therefore may not see it as their home city.

PLEASE SEE PIA ♦ PAGE 2

## New self-serve checkout kiosks put waiting in line on the shelf

EDMON ROTEA  
News Staff

As of last week, U of A students now have a new and improved means of checking out books at libraries across campus.

On 12 September, University of Alberta Libraries unveiled new self-serve checkout machines intended to make borrowing books quick and easy, while allowing more privacy for students checking out materials.

"This initiative is part of the Libraries' commitment to improving its services to the student and to provide a better student experience in accordance with the academic plan," said Karen Adams, U of A director of Library Services. "We are assuming that shorter lineups mean a better student experience and greater self-sufficiency in [their] ability to interact with the library."

The new self-serve machines are also an improvement over the decade-old self-serve checkout terminals that were previously employed.

"We had problems with [the] old machines, especially with barcodes being all over library items. The library has taken an initiative to place the barcodes on the front of the books," explained Audrey Holubitsky, a technical advisor who helped with

the implementation of the self-serve machines.

Unlike the old terminals, the new machines feature a touch-screen LCD display housed in a sturdy, anodized-steel body, and can also print out due-date receipts of checked-out materials. The machines are also future-ready, with each unit being run by a standard desktop computer that can be accessed to modify or upgrade the unit's software or hardware with ease. Emanating from underneath the display panel is a red laser beam that scans the barcodes off the thousands of printed materials featured in the U of A Libraries' collection.

The new machines are also easier to use, requiring the quick swipe of a One Card coupled with intuitive on-screen animated instructions.

"We ask people to 'park' the item barcode under the red beam, wait for a beep that tells them their item has been checked out, and then listen for a thunk that tells them their item can pass through the security gate," explained Alexa Jaffurs, access services coordinator for the U of A Libraries.

"We chose these machines because they could handle the widest array of materials and placement of barcodes," she added. Previous testing trials successfully checked out more unusual items, such as a stuffed teddy bear

with a barcode sticker.

For now, the new machines are limited to checking out printed materials such as books, journals, and other publications. Other library materials, such as videotapes, DVDs, and other media in kits have yet to be available for checkout with the new machine. More complex materials, such as educational learning props, remain available for checkout from conventional circulation desks operated by existing library staff.

"People still need things from the circulation desk; no one will be laid off because we have these machines," explained Anne Carr-Wiggin, interim manager of circulation at the Rutherford Humanities and Social Sciences Libraries. "We're changing library services constantly. You'll see different types of service for sure, but this doesn't represent a staff person by any means."

Twelve machines have been purchased, with four operational at Rutherford Library, three to be installed in Cameron Sciences and Technology Library, two in Coutts Education, and one in each of Health Sciences, Law, and the Bibliothèque Saint-Jean.

"It's a great service that our library is doing. It shows that our University is trying to bring about all the fea-



RYAN SHIPPELT

**CHECK IT OUT** Self-check-out machines stand at the ready in Rutherford.

tures of the academic plan by trying to bring about a fulfilling undergraduate experience," Students' Union Vice-President (Academic) Bobby Samuel said after a 15-second checkout of a

book. "If anything, it will allow students to go into the library, take care of the process themselves, and to take care of the checkout as expediently as possible."

### Inside

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### Assistance needed

The only thing worse than Bear Tracks is WebMail; the only think worse than WebMail is WebCT.

OPINION, PAGE 9



### Needed assistants

Assistant coaches are the unsung heroes of varsity sports, but they do more than you might think.

SPORTS FEATURE, PAGE 20



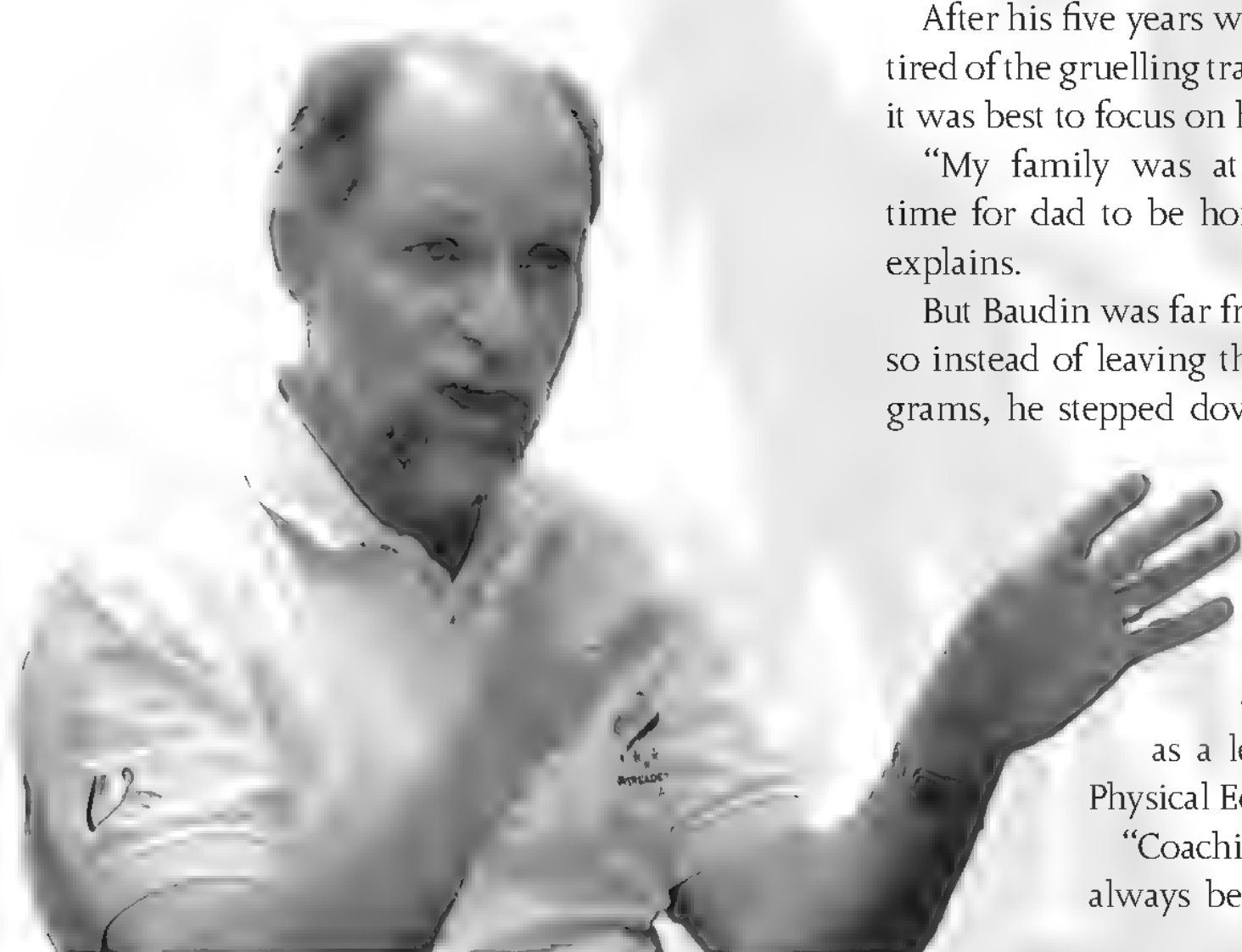
# TEAM PLAYERS

## PART 1 OF 2

They don't get paid, and they're never in the middle of a media scrum, but assistant coaches are integral part of the team dynamic. Gateway sports editor Robin Collum looks a little further down the bench to profile some of the University's best deputies.

WRITTEN BY ROBIN COLLUM WITH FILES FROM PAUL OWEN  
PHOTOS BY RYAN HEISE AND KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

**"Coaching the technical side has always been second nature to me. It's the part I enjoy the most, and so that's what I do."**



**Dr Pierre Baudin**  
Pandas Volleyball

Most university volleyball teams would have a hard time trying to decide which they wanted on their coaching staff more: someone who has been involved with the sport for more than three decades, or someone with degrees in biomechanics and a specialized knowledge of the science of sport. Luckily for the Pandas, they don't have to choose, as they have both in their technical coach, Dr Pierre Baudin.

In addition to his PhD in biomechanics, Baudin has been coaching volleyball—mostly at the U of A—since the mid-'70s, including two stints as head coach: behind the Pandas bench from 1978–80, and for the Bears from 1986–91.

"I've been on campus, with only a few breaks, since 1971, either as a student, a professor, a graduate student, or a coach," he laughs. "I've been around volleyball for a long, long time."

After his five years with the Bears, Baudin was tired of the gruelling travel schedule, and decided it was best to focus on his personal life.

"My family was at that age where it was time for dad to be home a little bit more," he explains.

But Baudin was far from done with volleyball, so instead of leaving the Bears and Pandas programs, he stepped down to his current role as

technical coach, eventually focusing solely on the Pandas. It's a part-time, volunteer position that he feels complements his day job as a lecturer in the Faculty of Physical Education.

"Coaching the technical side has always been second nature to me.

It's the part I enjoy the most, and so that's what I do," he says.

"It allows me to bring the real world into the classroom, and I can take my theoretical knowledge out with me to coach. Especially the biomechanics and physiology knowledge I have, I can take it to the court—we call it the living lab. For me it's a win-win, and I love to do it."

Because of Baudin's specialization—as he points out, biomechanic volleyball coaches aren't common—Alberta has a certain edge over its competition, which goes a long way towards explaining the consistent quality of players the Pandas program produces. The U of A has made it to nationals 13 times since he rejoined their staff: eight years in a row between 1993–2000, and every year since the 2002/03 season—and have collected seven CIS banners in the process.

"Pierre's volleyball and sports-science background really qualify him to be one of the top technical coaches in the country," says Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler, who feels that the changes Baudin made to the team's blocking last season played a big part in their winning the national championship. "Pierre has a unique ability to analyze the skill execution and have an immediate impact on the athlete's performance and take them from one level to the next level."

"Modest me, but I think [having me] is a big advantage," Baudin says. "How does our third-year athlete compare with a third-year athlete that's at another institution? I would say generally speaking that we take athletes farther than those in other programs, and I think a large part of that is that other programs don't have people like me."

But it's not just him: Baudin gives credit for Alberta's dominance of the national volleyball

scene to Eisler—now in her 16th year at the U of A—and the atmosphere she's created for the coaching staff. He says that she trusts her assistant coaches and makes them feel valued, which brings excellence and loyalty to the program.

"The environment that's created here [helps]," Baudin says. "When we went to nationals last year ... I think our ratio of coaching staff to athletes was one to one. I'm pretty certain there isn't any other university team in the country—of any sport—that has that."

"It's basically all volunteer, and the only reason people keep volunteering is that you are allowed to be a part of that national championship-winning team. I was a head coach, and I never did win a national championship, so I never did have that opportunity, but to be a part of it now—and to actually *feel* a part of it—that's really important. That's what keeps you coming back."

Eisler, meanwhile, noted that having Baudin's office just a few down from her own eases the pressure she feels, especially when most teams don't have the luxury of having a second full-time employee on the coaching staff.

"Having someone just down the hallway as a sounding board and for unconditional support—coaching can be a very isolating position—to have his ear helps me to sleep at night," she says.

For Cathy Butlin, coaching basketball isn't just something she does on the side. She has a master's degree in coaching from the U of A; leads the senior girls' team at Jasper Place High School, where she teaches phys ed and math; and is the top assistant coach for the Pandas. She does it all because she loves the game, and has a passion for sharing it with others.

"It's very similar to my career as a teacher," she says, explaining the appeal that coaching holds for her. "It's giving back to youth, sharing your experiences with them, and trying to make them better people."

"That's the biggest thing I get from it: seeing people grow, seeing them improve and them being successful, and feeling that you had a part in that."

Butlin has a long history with the Pandas program, having been one herself. She played five seasons here as a

guard from 1996–2001, so she has a lot of personal experience as a student-athlete.

When she graduated, Butlin knew that she was done with playing full-time, but wasn't ready to give up the sport. So she decided to combine her love of teaching and of basketball, and started coaching.

In fact, she liked it so much that she went back to school for a master's in coaching from the U of A—becoming that program's first-ever graduate—before returning to the Pandas. This time, however, she was on the other end of the bench, and found it to be a completely new experience. She also found that she had a lot to learn.

"I considered going full-time with coaching, but at this point in my life, I just didn't feel that it was for me, and that's why I'm teaching instead. I want to get more experience before I step into a role like that," she explains. "That's why I did my master's, too. I knew the basketball side of it, but there's so much more that there was to learn."

Butlin learned quickly, and is now an invaluable part of the Alberta coaching staff—to the point that head coach Scott Edwards will jokingly call her the "associate head coach." She works with the perimeter players during practice, helps lay out strategy with Edwards, and

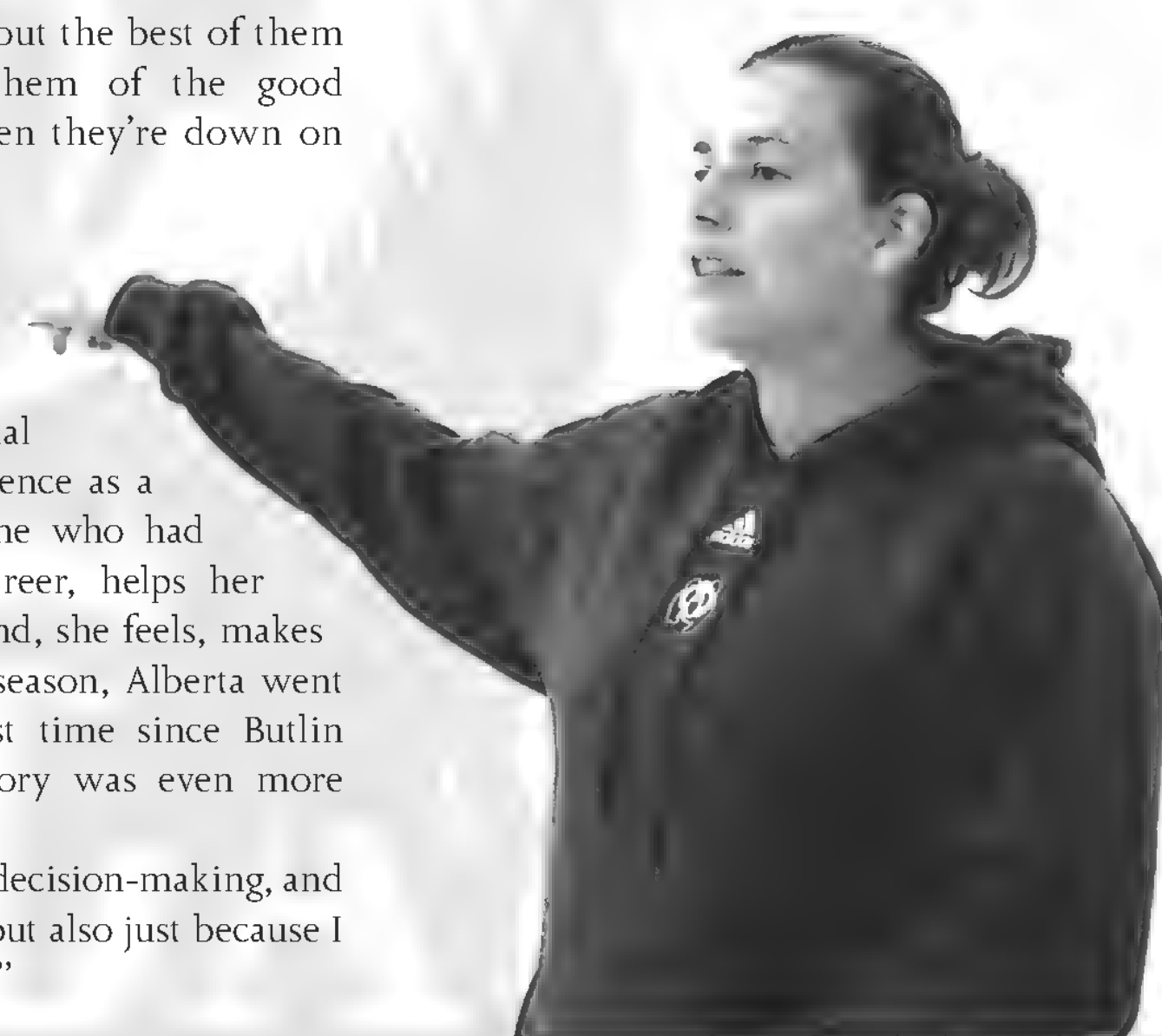
coordinates subbing during games. She is perhaps equally valuable to the players, however, as a role model and confidante.

"She's got a great personality and rapport with athletes; she's young enough to be not that far out of her [playing] career, so she knows what they're going through," Edwards says. "One of her greatest strengths is her ability to talk to athletes on a one-on-one basis and bring out the best of them individually—remind them of the good parts of their game when they're down on themselves."

In Butlin's third year as a player, the Pandas won the national championship, and they brought home silver in her final year as well. Her experience as a Panda, and especially one who had such a distinguished career, helps her players connect to her, and, she feels, makes her a better coach. Last season, Alberta went to nationals for the first time since Butlin graduated, and her history was even more important.

"I have a lot to do with decision-making, and they respect me for that but also just because I played here and did well."

**"That's the biggest thing I get from [coaching]: seeing people grow, seeing them improve and them being successful, and feeling that you had a part in that."**

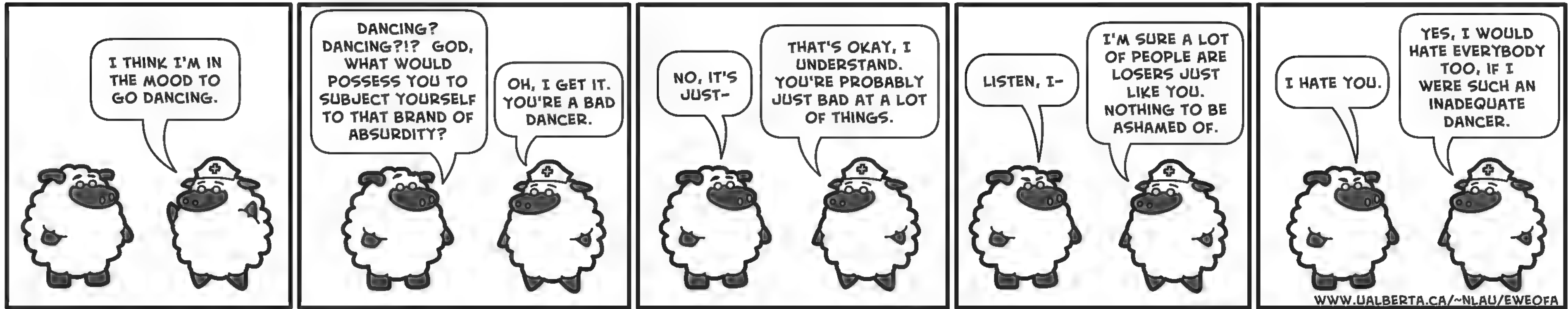


**Cathy Butlin**  
Pandas Basketball

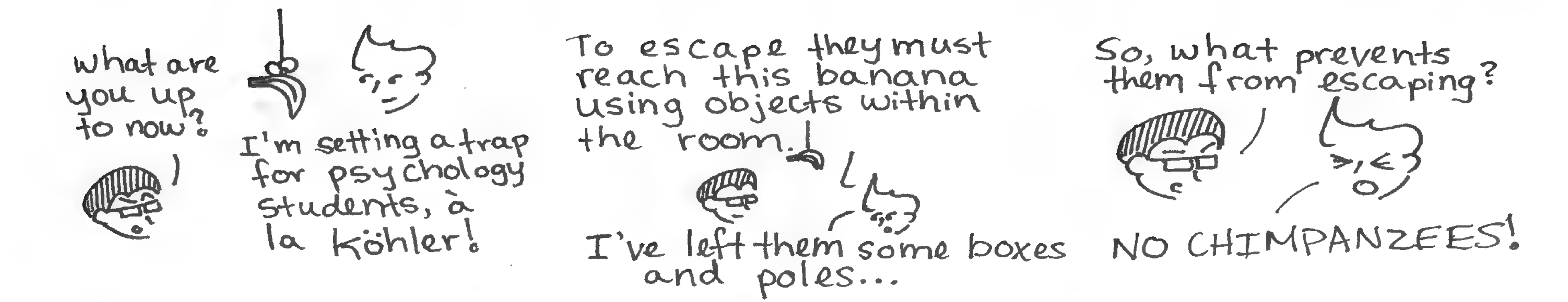
**Check back on Thursday for the second half of our series on assistant coaches, where we will profile Ron Thompson from the track teams, and Ted Poplawski from the Bears hockey squad.**



EWE OF A by Norman Lau



SEXY GEEK by Ross Lockwood and Vishaal Rajani



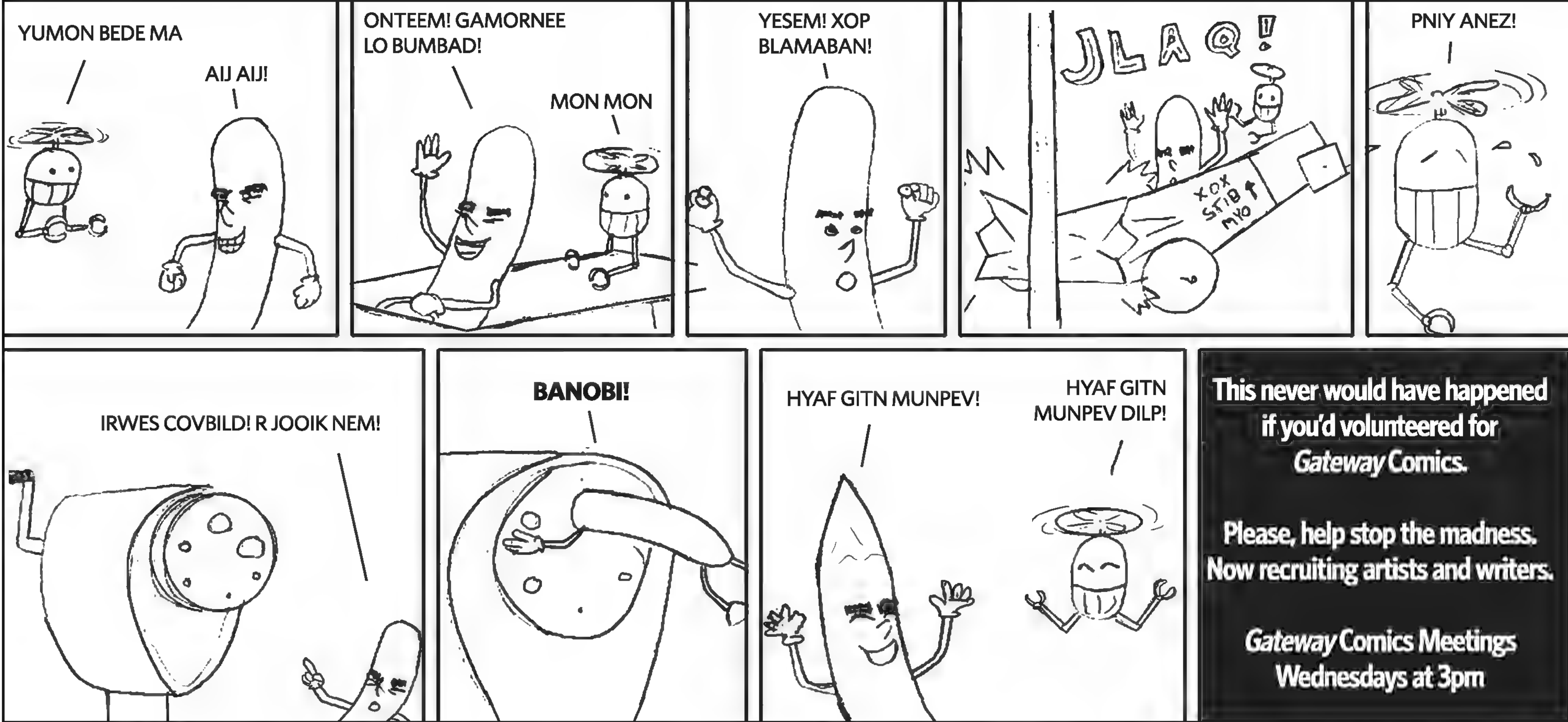
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RUT-RUT & MEEBLO by Gateway Staff





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Tuesday, 16 October, 2007 at 5pm Alumni Room, Students' Union Building

**TENTATIVE AGENDA:**

Introductory remarks • Approval of 2006-2007 GSJS Audit (*Allen & Associates*)  
Announcements • Refreshments

All members (i.e., those with five or more Gateway contributions in the 365 days prior to 16 October and who have registered for membership with a Gateway editor) are asked to attend. If you have made five or more contributions to the Gateway in the 365 days prior to 16 October and would like to become a member, please contact the Editor-in-Chief at [eic@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:eic@gateway.ualberta.ca). This meeting is also open to the public.

For more information, please contact the Editor-in-Chief Adam Gaumont at [eic@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:eic@gateway.ualberta.ca) or visit <http://www.gateway.ualberta.ca/gsj/s/>



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Volunteer w/tn SafewaK! SafewaK is a Students Union run service that works people on and around campus at n'gnt. We ook for friendly, energetic, and fun volunteers. Volunteer shifts are flexible, and can be chosen on a week to week basis according to the time and day that works best for you. Visit [www.suswaperta.ca/safewaK](http://www.suswaperta.ca/safewaK) for more information and volunteer applications. The volunteer application deadline is September 26th. Happy September!



KATE WADE

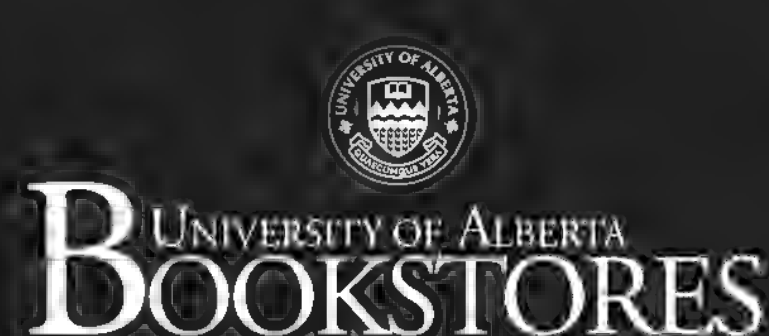




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# Upcoming provincial election PIA's focus

PIA • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I think it's the students that sometimes have the transient mentality [of], 'Well, I'm here for my degree,' or 'I'm here for my masters,' but they need to be pulled out and connected to [it] just as much as citizens who grew up in Edmonton," Janz said.

Ward 5 candidate Don Iveson added that issues are often complicated enough in municipal politics, and they need to be broken down for specific audiences. He noted that students have specific needs related to public transit and affordable housing that aren't necessarily unique to their community, but that are nevertheless widespread.

"Approaching [young voters] with those issues is an opportunity ... to engage them in something that matters more to them than abstract conversations about zoning or the other kinds of things that tend to come up in municipal campaigns," Iveson said.

Of the municipal issues currently having the most impact on the lives of students and young voters, U of A SU Vice-President (External) Steven Dollansky pointed to the housing shortage as an area of primary concern.

"Our institution is located in a region of Edmonton with the lowest vacancy rates and some of the highest rental rates in the city," Dollansky said. He proposed that immediately following the upcoming election, councillors should commit to legalizing secondary suites in mature neighbourhoods, ensuring existing suites meet building standards, and work



MIKE OTTO

**GETTING THE WORD OUT** MacEwan Students' Association President Justin Benko talks about the upcoming election.

to stimulate the supply of affordable housing.

Students' Association of Grant MacEwan College President Justin Benko stressed that student apathy was not to blame for notoriously low turnout at the ballots among university-aged voters. Instead, he said, a lack of information regarding the importance of voting needs to be addressed.

"Students aren't always aware [of] how government affects their lives directly," Benko said. "We can't always just expect students to get the information themselves. I think it's very

important to engage students."

Ward 4 candidate Ben Henderson added that one common misconception is that if the person you vote for doesn't get elected, the vote was wasted.

"Actually, that's not the most important reason to vote—knowing that a certain demographic doesn't vote means that they can be ignored. And it's really hard to get people's issues onto the table if they're not a voting demographic," Henderson said.

Harvey Voogd, Ward 3 election candidate, echoed Henderson's com-

ments, and noted that decisions will ultimately reflect the age of the people who vote.

"Traditionally, young people have not voted in any great amount," Voogd noted. "So people in their 40s, their 50s, and 60s are going to make decisions that are going to affect all of us by default because people younger than those ages don't come out to vote."

"We've done a really bad job over the last decade or so convincing people that their vote is important," Henderson concluded.

# CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Cody Civiero

## WELL, SINCE YOU ASKED SO NICELY

Two males were seen outside of Rutherford Library North aggressively panhandling on 13 September. After being unsuccessful for some time, they asked one person, "Can I lift your wallet?" and were told to "screw off." At that point, Campus Security was advised. The first male is described as white, 5'9" and in his 20s and the second is described as white, 5'11" and in his 20s with a yellow jacket.

## FROM HANDLEBARS TO PRISON BARS

On 13 September, a CSS officer initiated

a traffic stop for a cyclist, who dropped his bike on the ground and fled on foot. He was apprehended after a short chase, and was determined to have several criminal warrants out for his arrest. He was issued violation notices for failing to stop for a peace officer and other traffic offenses before being released to EPS.

## PHONY PARKING PERMIT DOESN'T PAY FOR CAR CON MAN

On 14 September, Parking Services located a fraudulent parking permit displayed in a vehicle in the Windsor Carpark. CSS attended, and the driver of the vehicle arrived in time to pay the drop fee to the towing company. Code of Student Behaviour charges are pending against the student, as well as possible fines, tow charges, storage fees, and offence tickets issued by Parking Services.

## AND THEY SAY THAT SUGAR IS BAD FOR YOU

On 14 September, CSS responded to the Rutherford Library area after a concerned University staff member noticed that a vehicle was obstructing the laneway. The staff member had knocked on the window of the vehicle, and the driver appeared incoherent.

Officers attended the area and offered first aid to the driver, who was conscious but disoriented, and requested an ambulance after it was suspected that he was diabetic. The driver, of no university affiliation, was assessed and treated by paramedics. After being given sugar, he didn't require transport to the hospital.

## REMEMBER CRAZY TAXI? THAT GAME WAS RAD

On 15 September, bike unit members spoke with a taxi driver who was block-

ing traffic near the south entrance to HUB mall. The driver took off and committed numerous traffic violations in the bus loop before being stopped by an officer in a vehicle. The driver, who had no university affiliation, was issued several provincial driving tickets, including failure to stop for a peace officer.

## SLEEPING ON THE JOB

On 15 September, a male and female were stopped for jaywalking on 112 Street and 83 Ave. The female was uncooperative and provided a false name before going unconscious. The investigating officer was also a paramedic and was able to provide assistance. The female was then identified and it was determined that she had several outstanding criminal warrants for her arrest. She was escorted to EPS headquarters and a charge of failing to provide identification to a peace officer was added to her resume.

# STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by  
Steve Smith and Krystina Sulatycki



**Dan Thiessen**  
2pm Dental  
Appointment



**Chris Thompson**  
ENCS IV



**Eleshia Kimber**  
Education III



**Kayle Christensen**  
Arts III

"My perfect Sunday would be waking up with a beautiful lady under my arm and wasting the day away." (No ice cream?) "Well, we could incorporate that." (That's kind of what a sundae is.) "Well, that's a different rendition of a sundae, yes."

"Watching TV, trying not to do homework." (No ice cream? Sauce?) "Oh, that kind of sundae. Well then it's pretty much a bowl full of sprinkles. Maybe a little ice cream, but I'm pretty much a bowl full of sprinkles kind of guy."

"I guess it would be a banana split with chocolate, strawberry, and caramel. Maybe pecans or walnuts."

"Hot fudge. No, just kidding. My perfect Sunday would be golfing." (You were right the first time.) "Oh, okay. Then hot fudge."



# Panel probes prostitution problems

BRYAN SAUNDERS  
News Staff

Prostitution is sometimes called the world's oldest profession, but there are some who think they can put an end to it—or at least the legal shortcomings, the poverty, and the ignorance that they believe perpetuates it.

On Friday, 14 September, a panel discussion titled "Prostitution and the Law: Alternatives for Reform" was held at the Law Centre, examining whether the decriminalization of prostitution—the removal of Section 213 from the Criminal Code of Canada—might affect those in the sex trade.

Dawn Hodgins, a former prostitute and now project coordinator and public educator for Prostitution Awareness & Action Foundation of Edmonton (PAAFE), thinks that while the laws need addressing, decriminalization isn't the answer. The problem doesn't lie with the prostitutes, Hodgins believes, but with the johns who pick them up.

"One of the things we know is that 17 per cent of men who are caught trying to pick up a woman off the street have a violent criminal history," Hodgins said.

Decriminalizing prostitution in a public place, Hodgins explained, does nothing to change the violence that occurs behind closed doors, be it within an escort agency, a massage parlour, or elsewhere. The punishments for johns, Hodgins emphasized, need to be tougher and better-enforced.

Hodgins went on to suggest that with the rising cost of living, many turn to prostitution just to survive. However, she said, if one were to target and remove the demand—that is to say, the johns—the huge profit to be made would quickly disappear. So, Hodgins hopes, would the supply.

Another speaker and an advocate for decriminalization was New Democrat MP Libby Davies, representative of Vancouver's notoriously poor and drug-riddled downtown



TARASTIEGLITZ

**SEARCHING FOR SOLUTIONS** Libby Davies wants prostitution decriminalized.

east neighbourhood.

Were prostitution decriminalized, Davies believes, women of the street would no longer be criminals and would feel more confident in turning to law enforcement and in reporting violence, and it wouldn't take decades for charges to be laid.

PAAFE's executive director, Kathy King, who lost her daughter to the streets, added to this sentiment.

"I remember years ago, talking to a policeman once [about my missing daughter], and this policeman said, 'You don't want to know what goes on,'" King said.

However, Hodgins didn't agree that decriminalization would do enough to reduce the violence and might only encourage people to become involved, which would lead only to more violence.

Instead, she proposed preventative education in the public school system

as part of the health class curriculum. Hodgins believes that men must learn at an early age that buying another person's body is unacceptable. Young women, she said, must learn early on that selling themselves is demeaning and wrong.

"I'm not sure how this idea of selling yourself as a form of female empowerment [makes women] independent of men. It actually makes [women totally] reliant on [men] for every dime," Hodgins said.

It's important this message is taught at a young age, said Hodgins, especially since many get into the trade as minors. Were prostitution simply recognized as slavery, Hodgins said, perhaps all those who participate in it would stop.

"Why are there men in our society who think it's their right to buy other people?" Hodgins asked. "To me, that's the issue. That's it."



ZHENDONGLI

**OF MICE AND MEN AND MACHINES** Researchers used mice to isolate a genetic link to vision loss also found in humans.

## NEWS BRIEF

### MICE HELP RESEARCHERS FIND NEW CAUSE OF BLINDNESS

University of Alberta researchers Dr. Joe Casey and Dr. Yves Sauvé have found evidence that the absence of a gene involved with bicarbonate transport—the transport of carbon dioxide in the human body—causes blindness and may be associated with epilepsy.

Casey, a biochemist, was using mice to study heart defects related to the Scl4a3 gene (anion exchanger 3 gene) in 2005. Although it's very rare for humans to lack a gene, it was important Casey used "knockout" mice—mice lacking Scl4a3—to find out what the

gene's function was.

Knowing that the Scl4a3 gene was also expressed in the retina, Casey contacted Sauvé, a physiologist specializing in retinal studies, to see if the mice had any eye defects.

Sauvé discovered that the mice Casey was studying suffered from a loss of vision, though not necessarily blindness. The vision loss the mice suffered from is similar to hereditary vitreoretinal degeneration (HVD), which causes blindness in humans, and in both cases there is an inner retina problem with neuron response.

Their research led them to a similar study on the Scl4a3 gene done in Germany. However, the German scientists were more concerned with its association with epilepsy. A mutation of

the Scl4a3 gene doesn't cause epilepsy on its own, but there is evidence to suggest it lowers the threshold for epileptic seizures, increasing the chances of a person to have one.

"We're making contact with people studying epilepsy and trying to find a link, but we haven't yet established a link," Sauvé said.

In the future, Casey and Sauvé would like to possibly link a higher risk of epilepsy with a type of inner retina disorder—something that resembles HVD.

"Science links different fields, and we ourselves are surprised when we go in directions we didn't expect, and it is fascinating when this happens," Sauvé said.

— Moly Milosovic, News Writer

  
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# Cats—like humans—rely on movement for memory

ALLISON GRAHAM  
News Writer

Cats may seem unappreciative to their owners, but the advances made by a University of Alberta researcher suggest that their memory is influenced not by sight but action, a breakthrough that humans should appreciate.

U of A professor of Physiology Keir Pearson studies the way that our brains control how we know where an object is in relation to our bodies. The experimental concept of testing whether or not an animal needs to perform an action or can merely see an object to remember it is one of the main focuses of Neurophysiology, Pearson's field of study.

"I'm interested in how the brain controls behaviour," Pearson said. "If you move, you still know where objects are relative to your body, so that means there has to be some sort of remapping in your brain to keep track of where those objects are as you move."

The first experiment that Pearson

performed consisted of a cat stepping over an obstacle with its front legs. The cat was then distracted with food for as long as possible while straddling the barrier. Pearson removed the object while the cat was feeding, and then got the cat to continue to move forward. Every time the test was performed, the cat moved forward by raising its hind legs as if stepping over the obstacle.

"The surprising result there was that this memory lasts for a long, long time," Pearson said. "[Possibly] seeing the obstacle would be enough to tell the animal it's there."

However, he inferred that that information could also have been sent to the brain from the cat's forelegs to stimulate memory, and that the sight of the object wasn't the only factor that created the cat's long-term memory.

"[The] paper that we published just recently was to determine what factors would establish this memory," Pearson said. He explained that there were two factors possibly involved: the first being the sight of the object, and the second being the possibility

that the movement of the cat's forelegs sent a message to the brain to remember the obstacle.

To test this, the cat was brought to the obstacle so that it could see it but not step over it. If the cat was distracted for a much shorter period of time, it would remember the obstacle and lift its hind legs as done in the first experiment.

"If it is more than a few seconds, [the cat] completely forgets, so the visual signal by itself is not sufficient," Pearson said. "This indicated to us that it was the actual movement of the front legs over the obstacle that actually established the memory."

Because of the results found in Pearson's tests, researchers have further ideas on how these discoveries will benefit people. Pearson explained that this study helps us understand little things about human behaviour, from how we can go down stairs without actually needing to see the stairs, to being able to find where we parked our cars in a large parking lot—even if it takes some of us slightly longer.

More important are the possibilities



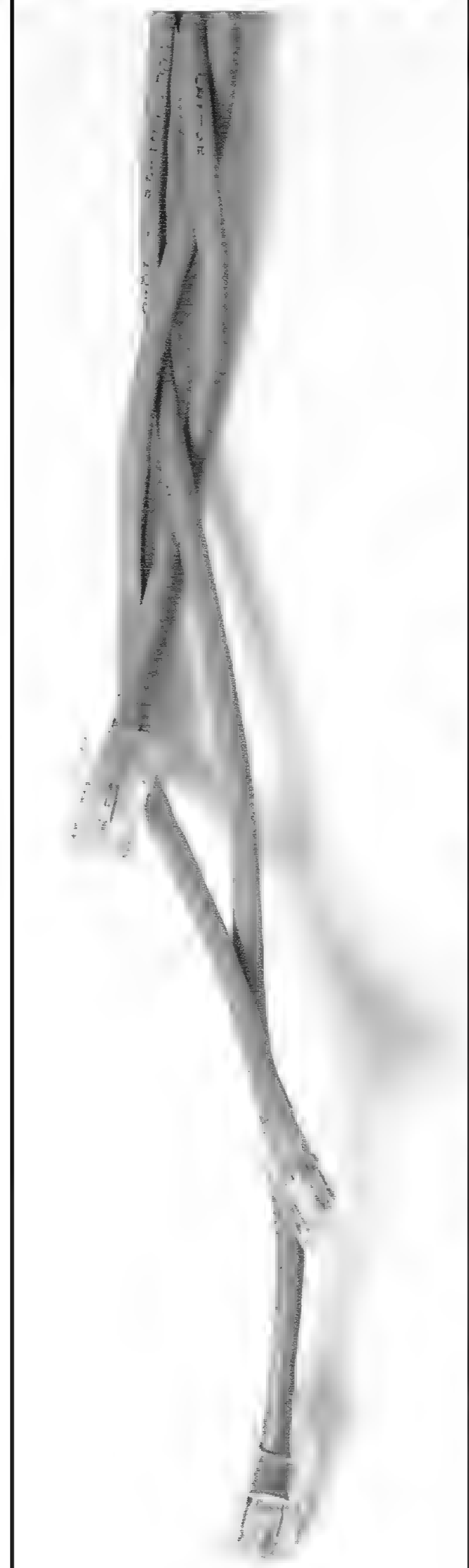
JENNY FROGNER

**I HAS A MUSCLE MEMORY** Cats show researchers how humans learn.

of what this research can do for our health. Pearson said that people with Alzheimer's, dementia, Parkinson's, or other cognitive disorders can't keep track of objects in their environment.

"[Researchers] might be able to develop some sort of test to see whether there's a memory decline in these patients to do with knowledge of where objects are," he said.

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# Costs for Int'l students soar

Despite rising tuition fees, foreign students continue to pursue Canadian degrees

KSENIA PRINTS  
CUP Central Bureau Chief

WINNIPEG (CUP)—While international students pay up to 180 per cent more than their Canadian counterparts, few are complaining. In fact, the higher the price tag, the more seem willing to pay.

Peter Tan, a third-year Applied Environmental Studies student at the University of Winnipeg, came to Canada from Malaysia in 2005 because of its relative affordability. He chose Winnipeg because of a local five-month Grade 12 completion program, and later enrolled in the University of Manitoba.

"Winnipeg was quite affordable at the time," Tan said.

When he arrived, the differential between domestic and international students was 100 per cent. This changed in the summer of 2006, when differential fees for all international students increased to 180 per cent over domestic tuition.

"It wasn't even posted online, but only on signs throughout the university," Tan said, noting that overseas students only heard the news upon their return to Canada.

"The hike was so ridiculous, my parents thought I was lying," he said.

Tan quickly transferred to the University of Winnipeg, opting for a similar degree at a 125 per cent differential.

His cousin and a friend had planned to join him until the University of Winnipeg also announced its intent to hike their differential fee to almost 175 per cent the following September. One gave up on the idea entirely, while the other moved to a similarly priced institution in Australia.

"Not many can afford a \$1000, three-credit-hours course," Tan said.

But despite the high price tag, there's no shortage of international students arriving every year. In 2006, there were 156 955 students from abroad studying in Canada. International tuition ranges from \$6207.44 for 30 credit-hours in the Faculty of Arts at Brandon University, to \$18 698 for Arts in the University of British Columbia.

These price tags seems to be linked to population, but not in the way that most would expect: despite having the lowest tuition fees for international students, Manitoba hosted only 4815 of international students in 2006. British Columbia, whose schools average the highest international tuition fees in the country, was home to 44 799, a close second to Ontario's 58 308.

**"The hike was so ridiculous, my parents thought I was lying."**

PETER TAN  
U OF W INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

Don Wehrung, executive director of international student recruitment at the University of British Columbia, suggested that low tuition can lead to a lower reputation on the international stage.

"A large number of students attach a price tag with quality," added Neil Besner, Associate Vice-President International at the U of W.

Tan sees some truth to this, adding that good reviews from peers, as well as international visibility, would help improve first impressions.

That equation worked for the University of British Columbia. When the university opted to remove an international tuition freeze in 1996 in favour of more aggressive overseas recruitment and better services for international students, international tuition jumped from \$5700 to \$13 700 the next semester. Meanwhile, international enrollment also increased by 30 per cent.

"We signaled to the external community [that] we were open and accessible," Wehrung explained.

Beyond individual universities, the provinces are also desperate to attract international students to create a cultural dynamic.

According to Darcy Rollins, director of the Manitoba International Education Branch, they provide unique academic perspectives and enrich the multicultural student body. They also

help strengthen international ties and add to the labour pool.

Even students who leave Canada after graduation are seen as potential "informal ambassadors," Rollins said. They can help inform the international community about Canada, thus contributing to future relations and business.

"A university is better if it's more international," Besner said.

International tuition is more expensive because provincial subsidies don't cover non-citizens, explained Rollins. It's up to individual students to make up the difference.

"[Schools] set their own tuition in the context of their institutional priorities and available services," Rollins explained.

And international students seem willing to pay the price for a foreign BA.

"I agree [we] should pay more because we're using someone else's resources," Tan said.

Canadian universities are also recognizing that it takes more than the promise of a Canadian diploma to lure international students. Many are working on improving recruitment efforts abroad, along with their local services.

In Manitoba, postsecondary institutions have discussed possible changes to their programs with the provincial government, and several new bursaries and scholarships for international students will become available next year.

The University of Winnipeg will use 90 per cent of the differential fees for different programs and financial awards targeted towards international students. New housing initiatives and improved international advising are already in the works.

Yet for middle-class students like Tan, it's not the question of improved services or additional peers that matters the most. Amid the flurry of tuition increases, Tan seeks consistency.

"We should aim for an international tuition freeze," he said.

"If I have a constant number, I can budget [for the year] and know I can support myself."

# Capilano College Students' Union denies club status to pro-life group

REZA NAGHIBI  
The Capilano Courier

VANCOUVER (CUP)—The Capilano College Students' Union (CSU) has twice denied club status to the Heartbeat group, a campus pro-life organization.

The group, led by President Minerva Macapaga, responded in June with a formal complaint to the BC Human Rights Tribunal for discrimination on the basis of religious belief.

Heartbeat Club's lawyer, Robert Gunnarsson, told the North Shore News that, "their pro-life views are an aspect of their religious views, so when they are being denied something on the basis of their pro-life views, it is in effect on the basis of their religion."

Lindsay Clarke, a member of the campus social justice committee, said that the Students' Union has

several clubs with official status that are religious groups, citing the Chinese Fellowship and Christians' Club.

**"The choice of abortion should be available to women."**

LINDSAY CLARKE  
CAPILANO COLLEGE  
SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Rather, Clarke described the controversy as a women's rights issue.

"The choice of abortion should be available to women," she said.

At a meeting between the Heartbeat Club and the CSU on 29 March, 2006, the CSU argued that "the committee supports freedom of expression, but will not support the club if they harass women who have

had an abortion."

In response to CSU's reasoning behind the denial, the Heartbeat group said that they "would never harass women who have had an abortion."

John Dixon, a Capilano College Philosophy professor, defended Heartbeat's complaints, stating that there was no justifiable reason to deny the group club status.

"My general comment is that this is a disgrace ... that a club in a place of higher learning, on the basis of a difference of opinion on an ethical matter that remains highly controversial in every part of the world, would [be denied] club status," Dixon said.

The CSU has until 28 September to file a claim to dismiss this complaint. If that claim is accepted, the case will go into mediation for up to six months.

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## Hunting day needs to be shot down

I OFTEN FIND MYSELF WANDERING HOME LATE at night multiple times a week. While the eerie quiet of campus after midnight is rather soothing, I've recently discovered a sinister scourge that plagues our fine university.

I counted 17 of them just last Wednesday during my stroll home, and with each one, I quickened my steps. Rabbits: eating our grass, procreating at a rapid pace, loitering in our green spaces, looking cute, and generally causing no problem whatsoever other than being there.

As I finally reached the safety of my home, I slammed and locked the door, poured myself a stiff whiskey to try to ease the anxiety shakes caused by all those bunnies, and was relieved as I glanced down at the newspaper to discover that the Alberta government has named 22 September "Provincial Hunting Day."

The declaration is in response to a significant drop in hunters in our province, a reality that's being caused by "television, computers, and shopping malls," according to a news release from Sustainable Resource Development Minister Ted "The Man" Morton.

"We hope that Provincial Hunting Day will give young Albertans the opportunity to experience the outdoors and build greater respect for wildlife," Morton said.

I'm not necessarily against hunting for any ethical reasons, but defending the activity under the ethos of a "respect for wildlife" is dubious at best. In fact, shooting an animal in the heart and then posing over its lifeless body with a mile-wide grin seems to be about as far away from respecting wildlife as you can get. It's akin to stacking up naked POWs at Abu Ghraib and snapping a few shots for your MySpace page.

The idea of "natural conservation," which has also been long-associated with hunting, is another questionable mantra to apply to the shooting of animals, for similar reasons. Hunting is often lauded as important in controlling animal populations, but that seems like a slight exaggeration. The reason we see more and more wild animals heading into urban areas is because humans are constantly encroaching on their habitats. Leaving enough space to sustain animal populations seems more fitting than expediting nature's course with bullets.

Lastly, there are no legitimate sporting roots for hunting. A sport is defined as "an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment." I'll give hunting the physical exertion and skill part—and even the entertainment facet if you enjoy seeing things die—but moose won't return a volley of shots, deer can't draw a bowstring, and bears (though godless killing machines) don't stand much chance against a .300-caliber rifle with a scope.

Hunting rose out of necessity for food. When humans were able to domesticate animals, the original need for hunting died out; we just found it rather enjoyable to continue to taking the lives of animals, as it was considered barbaric to take the lives of one another outside of the realm of war.

Instead, with the numbers of hunters beginning to dwindle, maybe it's time to let the activity die a slow agonizing death—like an elk shot in its hind quarters. There's a reason young people are turning to television, computers, and malls rather than hunting: most people don't actually find killing things an enjoyable pastime—at least, not in real life.

An awareness campaign on how great it is to kill things is a waste of taxpayers' money. You're not going to convince what's now a more socially aware and urban-based class of young people that hunting is an essential part of life. Perhaps a more realistic approach to pro-hunting campaigns needs to be taken: ads filled with bleeding animals, Dick Cheney shooting old men in the face, and images of animals being skinned for superfluous products and trophies will probably move just as many extra hunting licenses as Provincial Hunting Day will.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have to go shoot some rabbits for the hell of it.

RYAN HEISE  
Deputy News Editor



CONAL PIERSE

## LETTERS

### Crude comics a let-down

As a long time reader of your publication, it's with a heavy heart that I write this letter regarding the *Gateway's* comics section (re: "Mich Mich," 13 September). As a frequent reader, I'm not one to complain about artwork or levels of humour, as I can appreciate that a student newspaper is where fledgling comic artists cut their teeth.

But seriously, *Gateway*: a poop joke? The *Mich Mich* that ran in the 13 September issue made me question some of your editorial decision making. The *Gateway* should be demanding nothing short of the best from their contributors, not trotting out the same old, tired tripe from Shaun Lyons week after week.

Yes, shit is brown and would stain a toilet seat. Har, har, har. Is this really the type of humour you're striving towards?

I understand that you may not have an excess of artists willing to draw a weekly strip, but that shouldn't be the justification for running a piece of seriously sub-par work. I would much rather see a new comic struggle than watch a strip like *Mich Mich* fail to strive for anything past the lowest common denominator.

I'm by no means suggesting you censor your contributors *Gateway*, just please exercise a little quality control.

GORD SUMMER  
Science IV

### Gateway editorial fails to see both sides of the issue

I'm shocked at the complete lack of objectivity in Conal Pierse's editorial about Elections Canada's decision to allow veiled women to cover their faces when presenting photo ID at the polling station (re: "Harper's actions just veiled racism," 13 September).

Mr Pierse fails to point out that Muslim women who wear veils didn't even want it in the first place. Groups representing Muslim women have said that they have no problem showing their faces for identification purposes.

Many Muslim women have expressed their frustration that they weren't consulted on this issue and that this decision was made by people who apparently know little about the veil.

In addition, Mr Pierse fails to indicate that the leaders of all the major federal parties—including Stéphane Dion and Jack Layton—have publicly disagreed with Elections Canada by stating that they believe that Muslim women should show their faces when voting.

Instead, Mr Pierse has singled out the Prime Minister in order to trot out the old, worn-out attack that the Conservatives are "scary." I think most people see through these pathetic attempts at painting the Conservatives as something they're not and are pretty tired of this fear-mongering.

This slanted piece of work isn't what I would expect from a newspaper like the *Gateway* that aspires to be credible. You would do better to provide more balanced

editorials, rather than malicious ones like Mr Pierse's.

RENZE NAUTA  
Economics V

### Globe cooling in places

While much has been made in the media about the extent of the summer melting in the Arctic, very little has been made of the record amount of sea ice forming in the Antarctic this year. Indeed, this is probably the first you've heard of this.

Very quietly, the ice extent in the Southern Hemisphere (Antarctica) has reached its highest level since records began in 1979. According to NASA GISS data, the Antarctic has cooled by 1F since 1957. This highlights an interesting dichotomy in the way global warming-related topics are reported by the media, and presented by the "consensus."

Take for example, the Larsen Ice Sheet breakup in 2002, and the winter of 2004. The Larsen Ice sheet breaking up in 2002 received a lot of media attention (hint: it was in *An Inconvenient Truth*). What wasn't reported is that the breakup wasn't caused by global warming—it was caused by a spike in solar activity.

Indeed, two years after the solar peak subsided, the winter of 2004 was the coldest in the entire 50-year record of South Pole temperatures. That's right, *coldest*.

And since 2002, the Larsen Ice sheet has refrozen and even grown. This past year has seen cold and snow records set in Australia, South America, and Africa—facts that

received very little play in the news.

Now, before I get a bunch of angry replies calling me a global warming denier, let me say that I *do* believe in climate change. The planet's climate is a system of immensity and complexity beyond our easy understanding, but to suppose that it's static is to ignore all evidence.

What I do question, however, is how the proponents of man-made global warming (and the skeptics to a lesser extent) selectively pick only certain evidence, ignore whole swathes of conflicting data, crush dissent, claim consensus, and don't even enter into a real debate. If the science is clear, try and explain away the Antarctic data.

ALEX GORDON  
Materials Engineering IV

### Girls not angry for once

Where the hell are all the feminists? There are two things I've seen in a couple weeks that've made me wonder why I don't hear screaming feminists anymore.

First, Britney performed at the VMAs. Sure, her performance may have sucked ass, but that's not what got the media's attention. Apparently, she's fat and embarrassingly out of shape. If they think Britney is fat, I'd hate to see what they call "regular" women. No wonder she went crazy.

Secondly, every day I take the LRT, I see degrading ads for Slice TV. Particularly, one showing the woman saying, "If I wanted to be smarter, I'd watch a book." What the hell?

PLEASE SEE LETTERS ♦ PAGE 8



# Quit sullyng tuition’s good name

If you’re planning on going out and protesting it, make sure you do it right



ADAM  
GAUMONT

Down with tuition: it’s a cry often heard on campuses across Canada these days—especially here at the U of A—but if you stop sticking it to the man long enough to think about it, it becomes apparent that this particular turn of phrase is counter-intuitive to say the least.

That’s because tuition actually means instruction, with the money you pay for said instruction being your tuition fees.

Far be it from me to resist linguistic change, however, as the meanings of most all of the words we use in the English language today have changed by degrees since their inception (including “tuition” itself, which comes ultimately from a Latin word meaning guardianship).

Indeed, as a sign of the times, the Canadian Oxford Dictionary—the “official dictionary of the Canadian Press,” don’t you know—has the monetary sense as the primary meaning of tuition, with the instruction itself coming in a close second.

Still, you can impress your friends at protest parties by saying “up with tuition” and then proceeding to explain the word’s etymology—provided, of course, that your friends are a bunch of English nerds. Otherwise, you’ll just end up being unpopular like me.

Fortunately, I’m beginning to find myself in good company in demanding more from my university (okay,

so technically speaking, it’s my *alma mater* now, to use some more fancy Latin words). Namely, the Students’ Union and its council (well, some of it, anyway), who have, with the recent Bear Scat/Tracks scandal—dare we say, Bearsgate?—decided to draw a line in the proverbial sand and insist that the University be responsible for providing students with a decent online registration service.

**Still, you can impress your friends at protest parties by saying ‘up with tuition’ and then proceeding to explain the word’s etymology—provided, of course, that your friends are a bunch of English nerds.**

Say what you will about the way they handled Bear Scat—and coupling the student response so far with good old-fashioned common sense, I’m going to say that they screwed it up big-time—the SU has, in sticking (probably too) tightly to their guns, undertaken a subtle but important shift in the way they do business. That is, a shift away from complaining about how much university costs, and towards coming to terms with this cost and demanding more bang for their educational buck.

Most, if not all, of the last ten or so SU execs—and certainly the last four or five—have focused almost entirely on the admittedly unjust increases to tuition fees in our province. But given the reality that there’s almost certainly

no way of getting the University or the government to actually rescind on these increases—as well as the annual caps that have been imposed on them—simply railing against these annual single-digit increases out of principle seems increasingly to be a waste of time.

If, however, you insist on jumping on the protest train, then at least try to take some free tuition from the French: student groups in Quebec are now threatening “an unlimited general student strike” in response to their government’s de-freezing of tuition fees for the first time since 1994.

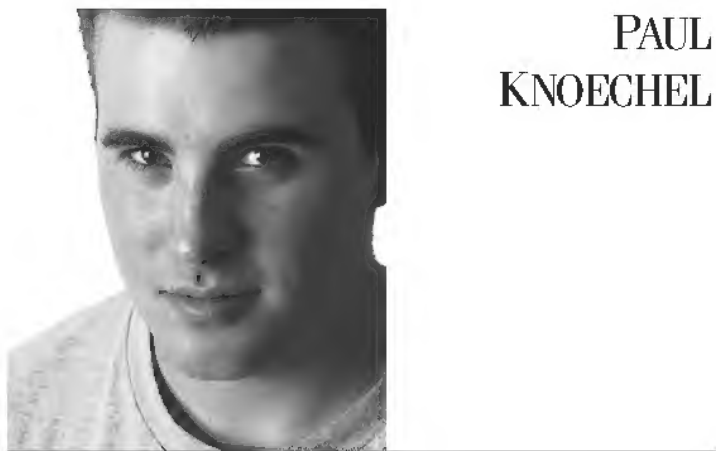
How Quebec students can live in complete denial of inflationary forces for so long is beyond me—as is how students can, strictly speaking, go on strike, seeing as they aren’t employed by the universities or producing much of anything (other than, perhaps, potential future value for the labour pool). I suppose threatening to withhold payment is the force at work here.

But the fact remains that if you’re going to protest something, you’ve got to go all out. And one of these Quebec student coalitions—the *Association Pour une Solidarité Syndicale Étudiante* (ASSÉ)—is doing just that, going so far as to demand that tuition be free.

Though it’s a bit of a stretch, go big or go home I say. Why not demand the same here in Alberta, where our government could realistically afford it?

Instead, we’re content with thinking that maybe somebody should do something about that gosh darn tuition thing one of these days. At this rate, “tuition” will simply come to mean “increase,” and students and linguistic purists alike will have something new to complain about.

# Rogue candidates would spice up elections



PAUL  
KNOECHEL

People just don’t seem to care about municipal elections. Not that that’s news, but I mean, people don’t care even a *little bit*. In fact, the last time that Edmonton held mayoral elections, the turnout was a paltry 42 per cent—and that was a marked improvement from the 35 per cent turnout the election before that.

At this point, the municipal government is practically chosen by aristocratic means, since a minority of the population is now representing the whole.

The general attitude is “Who gives a fuck?” despite the fact that the people sworn into office from these elections are in control of hundreds of millions of dollars and make decisions that significantly effect the people of the city, be it in their management of the roadways, public transportation, municipal employees, or even recreation programs.

Clearly, with the current attitude of apathy still prevailing in the face of all that the City Council is responsible for, we’re past the point where a simple advertising campaign could bring back some semblance

**“All of a sudden, polling stations would be packed with every last voter in the city, each casting their ballots to ensure someone with a good conscience and desire to do good in the city would get into public office, and not some disgruntled clown with a vendetta against mimes.”**

of majority representation to the municipal elections.

We’re in Hail Mary territory here, and I’ve got just the play to run: all that we need to do to get people back to the voting booths is to grant the mayor and all those with seats on Council total immunity from the law.

No crime they commit, no matter how heinous, could ever be brought before a judge. No matter how many laws they broke in full view of the public, the police couldn’t lay their hands on them. Just imagine a city where the mayor could drive to work drunk. In a tank. On the wrong side of the road. Throwing hard drugs to school children. While uttering racial slurs.

All of a sudden, polling stations would be packed with every last voter in the city, each casting their ballots to ensure someone with a good conscience and desire to do good in the city would get into public office, and not some disgruntled clown with a vendetta against mimes.

Additionally, it would make the race for municipal office a much bigger and showier event. Mob bosses

would pour money into their campaigns in hopes that they’d be able to deal drugs and whack snitches with disdain for the police. The crazies would campaign like, well, crazy for the opportunity to take their insanity to the next normally illegal level. And all the while, the legitimate candidates would be required to work twice as hard in order to convince the public of their convictions and that they don’t harbour a secret desire to go to the nearest nursing home and beat up the residents. The entire democratic process would be once again revitalized.

Naturally, all those working for Elections and Census Services will ignore this groundbreaking new way to approach municipal elections, because they don’t really give a fuck about city elections either.

It’s a shame though, as the potential of electing a “rogue mayor” would really put the kick back in these elections—plus it would finally give me the opportunity to free myself from these societal shackles we call clothes. I guess I’ll just keep my fingers crossed.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

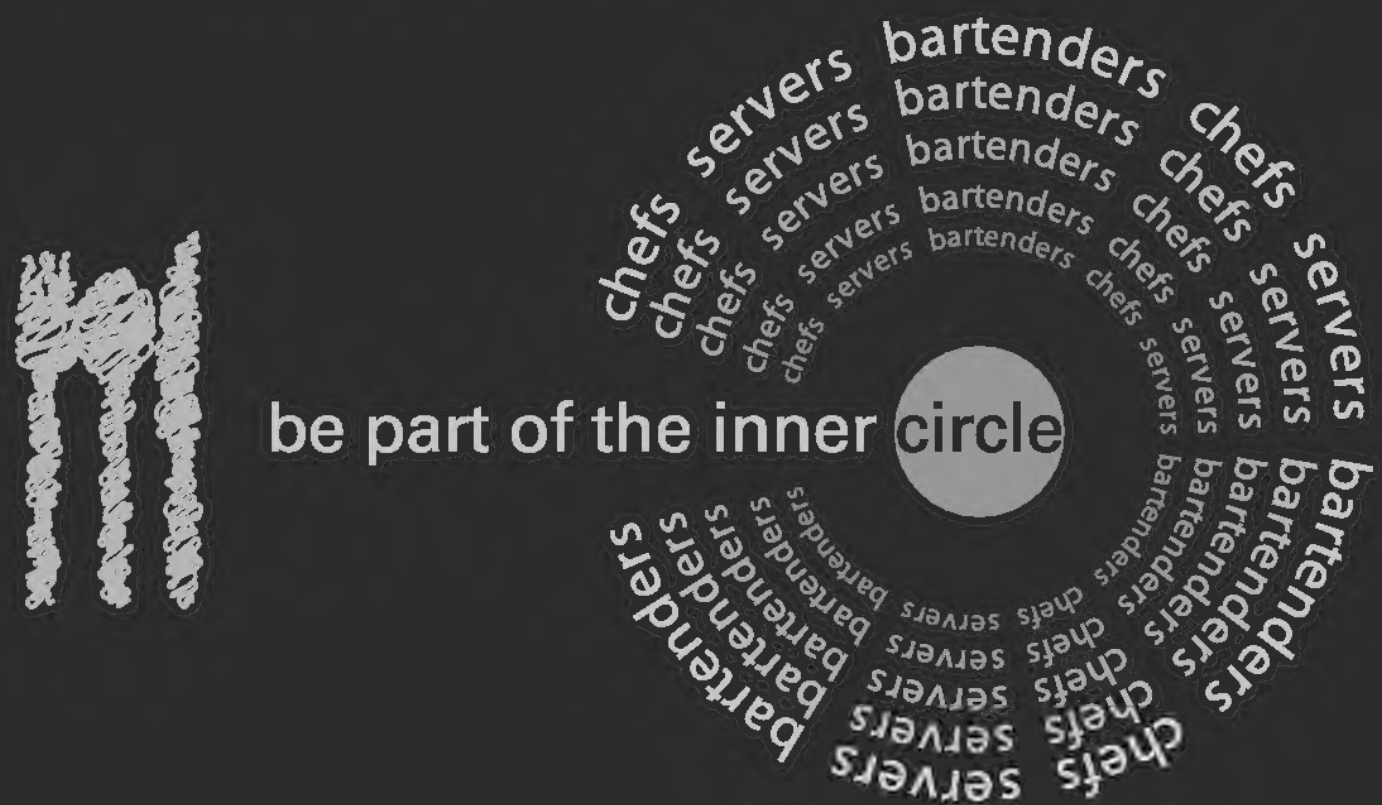


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# Obesity isn't a problem that can be solved just by sitting around

If we keep accomodating larger individuals, they'll have no pressure to change



BEN  
ETTINGER

As the 2012 Olympic Games in London draw nearer, preliminary preparations are underway to accommodate the large influx of both athletes and spectators.

Among these is the widening of seats in stadiums so that larger individuals can fit in them—something that contradicts the Games' celebration of physical fitness.

Seats in Olympic venues can currently box in people with ass-ends 50cm wide—4cm larger than the previous 46. The official reason for this expansion is, of course, the classic one: we must not discriminate against people on the basis of size or stature, and every effort should be made to allow all those who want to enjoy the thrilling events of this historic athletic competition to do so. Which, I think, is a total load of crap.

The last thing that these people

should be doing is sitting down and watching athletic events—they're the ones who should be down there running around the track.

If we want to fight gargantuan girth, making room for it isn't the best way to go about it. I guess you could call it discrimination if you want, but is it really? People are free to live whatever lifestyle they choose. This doesn't mean society should adapt itself in order to prop up unhealthy choices.

**There's something wrong with being overweight: it's bad for your health. Just telling people doesn't seem to be getting the message across; perhaps some societal pressure is in order.**

In essence, this is what we're doing when we increase the seat sizes at stadiums. Moreover, it's this kind of appeasement that allows the problem to go unsolved.

I will grant that people whose weight issues arise out of genetic disorders or other factors beyond their control should perhaps be excused from the debate. But we shouldn't make amends for people who are grossly overweight due to their poor eating habits or a simple lack of will to get rid of their schmeeps.

We should do nothing to make these people more comfortable—maybe then they'll choose to do something about their ballooning BMIs.

There's something wrong with being overweight: it's bad for your health. Just telling people doesn't seem to be getting the message across; perhaps some societal pressure is in order.

I'm not saying that upping the width of a seat will increase obesity, but I think this is symptomatic of a larger issue. We're telling these people, either directly or indirectly, that it's okay for them to be overweight.

If we stop accommodating them, they'll either have to change or stay on their couch at home and get fatter. I should hope they prefer the former; unfortunately this won't happen until both parties choose to flex their muscles a bit.

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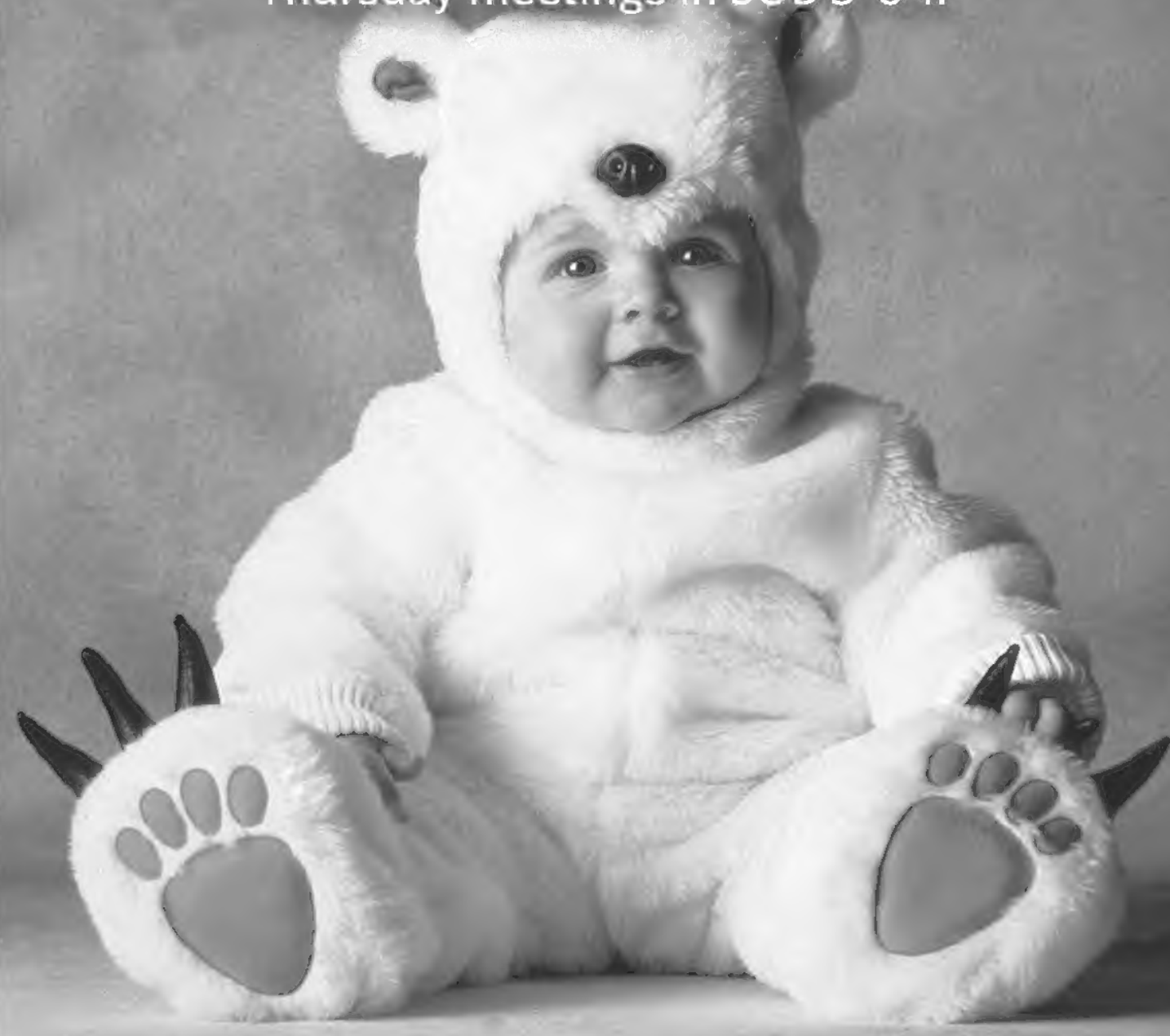
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### LETTERS ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

If educated University women aren't willing to speak out, who will? I'm not saying you have to burn bras, stop shaving, and support abortion, but at least write a fucking angry letter. Jeez.

M SNIDER  
Education V

### SU not servicing students

There's one thing that escapes me in all this debate about Bear Scat: where do some SU executives get the idea that the sole function of the SU is lobbying?

Part of the SU's mandate—the most important part, I would argue—is to provide services for students. Students certainly don't give the SU \$65.75 per term just to lobby—that money is supposed to go towards providing useful services.

Perhaps some executives, particularly Bobby Samuel, need to be reminded that the precious SU funds that they don't want going toward Bear Scat only exist because students pay SU fees each term, expecting services in return.

Forget all this Dedicated Fee Unit garbage. We're already paying the SU for services, and I, for one, feel we're not getting much value for our money.

I'd wager that Bear Scat is used by more students than any other SU service, and thus it is entirely reasonable, and should be expected, that the SU fund it out of the money we give them to provide services.

SU executives: lobby all you like, feel righteous about it, but don't forget what we're paying you for.

ADAM WOLFE GORDON  
Computing Science IV

### Let's trade notes, not germs

Everybody stays up late cramming for exams and getting projects done, leaving us all on edge and run down. Although everybody loves university students, germs especially love us. We catch and amass diseases like they're Pokémon.

I know while in the Tory bathroom holding your nose from the stink and thinking about the hot boy/girl you just boinked there last week, the last thing on your mind is to be washing those little extremities or yours. However, doing more than the usual rise—even an extra 45 seconds—can go a long way to stopping the spread of germs. 80 per cent of germs could be killed if we all just washed our hands. Everybody thinks toilet seats and public restroom knobs have a ton of germs on them; however, most people don't realize that ATM machines and doorways have more.

While sitting in a lecture theatre, the professor is muffled by coughing, right? Cover your mouth. Just because you're plugging away, it doesn't give you points of valour; you're making it hard to hear.

Yesterday, while answering somebody's question, they coughed openly into my face, and when I stopped talking, they asked me why? Are you retarded? You just coughed into my face.

I don't want your germs going into my mouth; I don't even want your germs on my clothing. I'm sorry, but if you're sick, stay home. And please cover your mouth if you must be on campus, and stop blowing your load everywhere like a groom on his wedding night.

RYAN PAYE  
Business Communications IV

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building or e-mailed to [letters@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:letters@gateway.ualberta.ca).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature—especially if it's typed with caps lock on. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's full name, program, year of study and student identification number to be considered for publication.

## THE BURLAP SACK

Maybe it's just me, but it seems as though campus is especially rich with ignorant troglodytes blessed with a bonus chromosome, to whom nothing in the world is more important than rocking out to some sweet tunes.

While riding my bike through the bus loop yesterday, I encountered no fewer than five individuals who, for some counter-evolutionary motivation, seemed to prefer being hit by a speeding cyclist than to take a few seconds away from Kanye's new album and look both ways before crossing the street.

I even went out and installed a shiny new bell on my ride this weekend for the expressed purpose of preserving the safety and well being of my fellow pavement-dwellers—but alas, my efforts have fallen upon deaf ears. At least, deaf to the world as it happens anywhere outside the musical radius of those irritatingly trendy white earbuds.

I'm not sure if I'm more saddened by useless parents of these clueless wonders, who apparently forgot to instill the importance of road safety in their crotch droppings at an early age; or the shit-mongers themselves, who not only provided me with an apt test of my brakes and navigational skills, but solidified my seething hatred for them with their looks of disdain, as if it's my fault for clipping them.

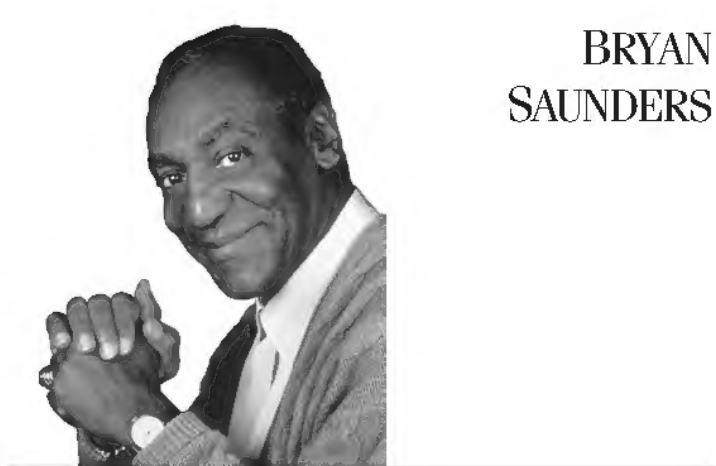
While you're lying in the sack, being beaten with bicycle tires, I hope you realize that you've no one but yourselves to blame.

MIKE KENDRICK

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.



# WebCT deserving of more hatred



BRYAN SAUNDERS

**“I’m pretty sure the saw was invented because trying to rip a tree in half with just bare hands was something very few people could do. So how is it that those behind the University’s online application Web Course Tools (WebCT) get away with calling their program a ‘tool?’”**

Correct me if I’m wrong, but isn’t a “tool” something designed to make tasks easier? Wasn’t the hammer invented because pounding nails into the floor with one’s forehead was a little too demanding on the skull?

I’m pretty sure the saw was invented because trying to tear a tree in half with just your bare hands was something that very few people could do. So how is it that the people behind the University’s online application Web Course Tools (WebCT) get away with calling their program a “tool?”

As it happens, I have the pleasure this semester of being registered in a first-year course, and chuckled to myself when my professor told the bright-eyed freshmen that all notes would be on, as he put it, “the spawn of Satan known as WebCT.”

The freshmen innocently giggled at this comment thinking this was just a joke; I chuckled knowing that they would soon discover it wasn’t. For those who’ve never had the pleasure of using WebCT before, allow me to break down the procedure into three simple steps:

- 1) On the login page, enter your CCID and password. Hopefully, this will be one of those days where WebCT actually recognizes it.
- 2) After a brief wait (usually six or

seven millennia), your “blackboard” should have loaded. This is your personal homepage on WebCT, and it’s as archaic and outdated as it sounds. On it, you will find links to each of your courses that use the program.

I should note at this point that you will only get this far if you have a web browser compatible with WebCT, you have cookies enabled, java installed and enabled, and you’ve turned off your pop-up ad blocker. Basically, to use WebCT, one must do everything they can to expose their computer to viruses and spyware—well, everything besides browsing free porn sites.

3) Select a course, and follow the links to the lecture notes you desire. Click on the link for these notes, and wait a few more millennia for them to load. Which they usually do. Eventually. God willing.

Now if, for whatever reason, they don’t load, I’m afraid that’s the end of the line. Don’t even think about clicking on “save target as” and seeing if that works, because “no such interface is supported.” If you want to see notes, you have to see them using the WebCT program first. If it isn’t working, you could contact AICT or the WebCT help desk, but they’ll likely just assure you that there’s no problem, and that even if there was,

it probably originated with the user (read you).

Now, I’ve taken a few computer courses in my time, and I can even do some coding and programming, so when told I don’t know how to use a computer, I’m offended. Furthermore, I really don’t think it’s because my brand-spanking-new computer doesn’t have enough RAM, or that it can’t process quickly enough. The problem either lies with WebCT, or Windows Vista, or E-learning, or Blackboard Learning, or whatever “catchy” name they’re calling the minion of Lucifer today.

After WebCT has failed me once again, I cry quietly inside—or, alternatively, bubble with rage. Feel free to do either—usually, I go with bubbling with rage for the rest of the day.

So, to the University administration: If you really want the U of A to be a world-renowned institution, WebCT (and Bear Tracks) have got to go.

Instead, there should be a single, functional site where students can go to check their email, register for courses, download notes, and pay tuition. Until you understand this, our university and its students will just be seen as dimwits living in the primitive days of “blackboards” who, like stupid tools, pour money into the pockets of WebCT and its developers.

# The frustrations of snail mail can now be experienced online thanks to U of A



MARIA KOTOVYCH

Successful attempts to send attachments with it are outnumbered only by Lindsay Lohan’s failed attempts to dry out. And how often is WebMail “temporarily unavailable” or painfully slow?

What’s more, the U of A green and gold interface is butt-ugly, and the abundance of folders has always baffled me. WebMail is way more convoluted than it needs to be, which makes navigation tedious.

**Until students stop complaining about Bear Tracks and turn their attention to WebMail, this train wreck will continue frustrating students.**

It exists among us, completely undetected, while we’re hypnotically distracted by something else.

Day by day, it chugs along, hoping that nobody will notice it and expect it to change. It breathes a quiet word of thanks to others like it for the recent attention they’ve been receiving, happy that our eyes are being directed far, far away from its own ineptitude.

But though its powers are limited and people are frequently frustrated by it, they say nothing. Others just ignore it or pretend it doesn’t exist.

This scourge is closer to us than we can imagine, and it’s not going anywhere soon. Students on this fair campus have been embroiled in a discussion about Bear Scat and Bear Tracks, but have forgotten that there’s another University computer service that truly deserves our attention. I suggest that students take off their scat-covered blinders and turn their indignation towards the true bane of a U of A student’s existence: WebMail.

Bear Tracks is a dream compared to the useless WebMail. My unsuccessful

attempts to send attachments with it are outnumbered only by Lindsay Lohan’s failed attempts to dry out. And how often is WebMail “temporarily unavailable” or painfully slow?

What’s more, the U of A green and gold interface is butt-ugly, and the abundance of folders has always baffled me. WebMail is way more convoluted than it needs to be, which makes navigation tedious.

Until students stop complaining about Bear Tracks and turn their attention to WebMail, this train wreck will continue frustrating students. And really, is Bear Tracks all that bad? Sure, it’s far from perfect, and it could definitely be organized better, but I’ve never had it seize up on me or fail to perform a function that it’s designed to do.

Like many of you, I use my email several times a day, but I certainly don’t access Bear Tracks with that same frequency. Email is often a convenient way for students to communicate with professors or to take part in some components of course work, so it’s much more crucial to have this working properly than the seldomly used registration software. However, until that happens, WebMail will keep clunking along under the radar, and students will simply have to grin and bear it.

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